The Famous Chinois:

OR THE

LOVES

of

Several of the FRENCH NOBILITY, under borrowed names.

With a Key annexed.

LONDON,

Printed by *E. O.* for *Thomas Dring* at the white Lion next Chancery Lane end in Fleetstreet, 1669.

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To EUDORA.

THe Famous Chinois comes, as obliged, to waite upon you in a habit of English phraſe; putting him into which I have in the generall taken patern, meaſure and materials from that which was ſome years ſince made him in Frenth

by Monsieur Du Ball; but, (if I may say so without suspicion, of arrogating or detracting as well as without guilt of it) not without more pains in particulars than Translatours commonly take, or else use to have ascribed to them. I have thus employed some months, because I have not had opportunity of atcheiving more elevated studies, because I would not for my own satisfaction leave unfinisht what I was by the commendation of others induced to begin, and because

though

though there are abroad several historicall discourses very ravishingly and advantageously composed of Loves and Gallantries, they for the most part have come out of the shop of inventive fansy, but this under a Romanticke colour and fashion records not only very considerable traverses and events of the same kinde, but those also as true as considerable, and no where else to be found. Whether my pains are worth either their own time, or that of perusing them, I submit to your examination. and

judgement, whose sagenesse and candour together with the other transcending beauties, which shine in you, in a high degree conduce to your admirations and observances of all that know you, but of none in a higher, than of

Eleutherius.

The First Book.

AT length the great *Alcidor* no longer able to endure that *Certaſilan* ſhould ſo abſolutely enjoy *Aſtatia*, ſollicited her to conſent, that he might again convey her out of his ingroſſing hands; and She indeed loved the Author of this Advice with too much Flame to be backward to comply with him in any thing that was honeſt and that admitted a plauſible excuſe: but when She came ſeriouſly to conſider the Quality and Conſequence of this Second Rape, She could finde no Prætext that was Tolerable with which to favour it. The Reaſons which moved Her to diſallow his Demands, and with which She endeavoured to ſilence them, were, that She had no more any cauſe to complain of *Certaſilan*, who treated Her with more ſweetneſs than

She cared for, that She could not forsake Him without makeing the King and Her Sister Her Enemies, without indeed working the ruine of her Honor and Comforts and that She hoped they should in time have Liberty of seeing and Entertaining one another at their Pleasure, without Her running away from Him, considering that He kept Her not Company so closely as He was wont, and besides was no longer jealous. Nothing could have come more strange to the Lovers Mind than did these arguings of his Mistress; He took them not only for a flat Denial of what He had begged, but also for an unquestionable Assurance that She no longer Loved Him: and hurried away with this Opinion, all in a rage he flung from her without vouchsafeing her any Reply. This his Indignation was as wounding to Her, as Her reasoning had been offensive to Him; it struck deep into her Heart, and moved it from the bottom. But She considered that it Imported Her not to be troubled at it, so as to be taken notice off, She therefore made use of all Her forces to undergoe it so as became Her. But what with Her Inquietudes which grew Riotous, and what with the constraint which She Exercised upon Her self

to

to suppress them, She so much indammaged Her Health that She within few houres went sick to Bed. Where having lain two dayes without *Alcidor*, who had knowledge of it, shewing himself not at all concerned in it (as indeed looking upon it as Counterfeit) swallowing down the Affront which She could not chew upon without a most exasperating disgust, She gave Her *Page* the charge of the ensuing Letter and bringing back an Answer.

Astasia to Alcidor.

WHat have I ever done against you to Merit the Pain which You make Me endure? Have You observed in Me one sole Motion tending to displease or disoblige You? If when You Propounded to Me a second Flight, I freely, yet coolly represented to You the Reasons by which I ought to be kept from it, is this a Crime which deserves to be punisht with so much Severity? I well know You have not to this hour been at all touch'd with My Illness, and yet I cannot forbear telling You that Your Displeasure has well-nigh brought Me to the Grave. To hear Me at You have done, to have notice of my Indisposition, to be Conscious to your self that you are the cause of

 it,

it, and not in the least to be moved at it, to think of this, Oh me! Afflicts Me to the utmost Point. I can go no farther, and if Your unkindness continue, know that with the loss of Your Affection You will quickly see that of My Life.

Though at the instant of Reading these Words, *Alcidor's* Heart felt it self melt with Compassion, he nevertheless made it appear to him that brought them, as if they were altogether indifferent to him, and he at first sent him away without an answer, but having considered that this was too roughly to handle *Astasia*, he caused him to be called back and gave him This.

Alcidor to Astasia.

YOu doe me wrong to name the just resentment which I have of Your coldness an over severe Punishment. For if You well consider how You have slighted My Royal Passion, You will acknowledge that had I not taken notice of it, You might deservedly have named Me insensible. You have indeed Conferred Favors upon Me which I have Reason to remember with an immortal and an unstained Gratitude, and if I left You

You without bidding You Adieu, it is the respect that I bare You which Obliged Me to it. would it have been just for Me to have gone against Your will, and to have endeavoured by an Opiniatrive Obstinacy to have forced You to have granted Me that of which You found me unworthy? No, Madam Alcidot *knows better how to live then so, and when it shall come to the last of his Life, He will never contradict it, if You have Ordained it. But that You may know what an Obsequious Zeal I have for You, only recover your Health and You shall see by the Continuation of My Services that I Honor You more than all the World besides.*

Though the illness of *Astasia* was very much augmented before her *Page* returned, She never the more forbore, when he presented these Lines to Her, to take and Read them, and She took them, Read them, and thought of them with such Hot and Violent Emotions that her Fever Redounded and put Her in much worse Condition than She before had been. Of this dangerous Surcharge of Her Distemper *Alcidor* staied not long before he was Advertised, and after he was Advertised of it, laying aside all other Displeasure but what that

Suggested to him, He staied not at all before he went to see Her. *Certasilan* being at Her Bed-side when he came into her Chamber, he received him with a handsom Courtesie, thanke him for his Care of visiting them in their Affliction, and expreſt a great contentment to see him, which whither it was as real as it seemed great he could not Judge: Howsoever that which *Astasia* derived from the sight of him was both real and great, it was far more Evident than that he could make any doubt of it; She was Extasied with it and fell in a Swoon in her Husband's Arms; at which Accident it was Legibly enough written in *Alcidor's* Looks that his heart was not in much better ease than was that of the Intranced. But the Remedies that were used bringing her to her self again (and together with her, her Sympathiser also) no sooner almost had She opened her Eyes, but, Sir, said *Certasilan* to him, our Company doth my Wifes Health an Injury, let us therefore, if you please, leave her for the Present and return to her when She is in a better Capacity. If I knew my self so unhappy, Replied *Alcidor* to him, as to increase the illness of those whom I Visit, rather than ease them that Mischief, I would all my

Life forbid my ſelf the ſight of them, and ſince you are of the Opinion that my Preſence brings a Detriment to your Lady, I leave both her and your ſelf to your Repoſes. By this his Reply *Ceriaſilan* perceiveing that what he had ſaid had too ſharply Prickt him, he endeavoured by Excuſes and Blandiſhments to heal the hurt that he had made, but whatſoever Skill he uſed in the Endeavour he could not hinder him from going away in Diſpleaſure.

The Lover was indeed from this time, putting all things into the Ballance together, ſo Ill ſatisfied with the Husbands humour, that to give it no more Umbrage he reſolved, not only to go no more to his Houſe, but alſo to deface out of his Soul all thoſe Draughts which the Beauty of his Wife had Ingraved there. In Favour of this deſigne he ſet himſelf on work to ſurvey the more lovely Faces of *Paquin*, that ſo by their Variety or by the Prevalency of ſome one of them he might be brought to forget that which he had a while addicted himſelf to, but which now he wholly quitted to its Uncommunicative Proprietary: and of all, which in that his Copious Proſpect came under his Conſideration, he was not long before he concluded *Carmelia* the moſt wor-

thy of his Vows. That therefore he might have Liberty of Visiting her without suspi-on he tyed himself in so straight a friendship with her Husband *Clidantus* that there was hardly in all the Court to be seen its Parallel. By which means he and that Fair having a Frequent Converse, if his glowing heats for her soon grew to a burning Fever of Passion, She also quickly began to languish with a Disease which made her as much need him for her Physician as he did her for his.

These new Loves knocking at *Astasia's* Eares, She was so far from Frowning upon them, that She with Smiles and from her heart bad them Welcom. Her Sentiments were indeed since her Sickness turned so contrary to what they had before been, that in the place of Amorous Passion She had nothing any longer for *Alcidor* but an Amicable care of his good. When the Forces of his Merit at any time Assaulted her, She by the Rules and helps of Prudent Vertue so Resolutely and Dextrously defended herself against them that they could gain nothing upon her more than to make her admire in the Creature the Creators Magnificence. When She thought of what had past between them, I should be ready to

ſuſpect, ſaid ſhe to her ſelf, that *Alcidor* would throw Dirt upon my Name, but that I am ſtrongly aſſured that he hath more both of Wiſdom and Generoſity then to Defame a Woman who hath by more than Ordinary Reſpects Obliged him to her. Beſides what Credit would he get in leading a Triumph over my Weakneſs and ſetting up Trophies of an Advantage which my little reſiſtance enabled him to acquire? Only Glorious Victories are to be publiſhed and not ſuch as diſgrace both the Vanquiſhed and Vanquiſher together. Yet let us Write to him to let him ſee that I, from my Soul renounce all former Pleaſures, and that I doe ſo becauſe I preferre my happyneſs before my Deſtruction. Accordingly She thus dreſt a Paper and ſent it by *Gariter*.

Aſtaſia *to* Alcidor.

YOu ought not to take it ill if having Glory to gain by my good Works, I repent of haveing committed ill ones. We may by reaſon of our Frailty ſometimes fall, but being by the Benigne care of Heaven raiſed up again, it is our Duty inceſſantly to Act thanks to the Author of our Deliverance. This is that wherein I propoſe Sedulouſly to employ my ſelf for the Future, and upon that account

the

the Abode in which I at present as Innocently as Lonesomely lead my Life, is more agreeable to me, than the Palace of our Kings. See how I intend to past the rest of my Dayes with Certahilan *whose Carriage is become so unblameable that I have great Reason both to admire his happy Change and to content my self with it.*

Alcidor having read these Tearms was glad to understand that she who wrote them would not disturb his new Affections nor be disturbed by them, and having weighed as well as read them he Drew this Answer to them, and sent it away by him that brought them.

Alcidor *to* Astasia.

I Must be void of a Humane Soul not to approve your Holyness of Life, and though your Graces have made deeper Impressions upon my Mind than I can quickly blot out, I shall notwithstanding endeavour to have no other thoughts of them than such as my Conscience may in Justice allow. See, Madam, if in whatsoever Condition you are I have not a serious Ambition of satisfying you: Nor am I so much an Enemy to mine own Happyness as

not

not to go in search of it by a Life which shall suddenly conform it self to yours.

Garinter gone *Alcidor* went to *Carmelia* who waited for him to go along with her to see her Husband at the Waters. Being alone when he entred her Chamber, It is indeed, Sir, said she to him, a very Liberal expression of your Goodness that at my Husbands Intreaty you will Accompany me to the Place to which you have so lately given a Title by the Kind and Noble Rape which you Acted there: But not finding her there whom you carried thence every Minute of your stay, will be an houre of tediousness to you. There being no Object in the World so Amiable to me, nor Company so dear as you. Madam, replied *Alcidor* to her, Judge again and say if I shall not account the Dayes which I shall pass in your Presence shorter than hours, but also sweeter than Moneths spent any where else. We know you are an excellent Artist of Rallery, interrupted him, *Carmelia*, without being thus informed of it, but remember that you in earnest wrong *Astasia*, when you though only in jest use Courtship to any other Woman. Let us speak no more of *Astasia*, returned *Alcidor*, for she

is

is no more to be reckoned of the World, having withdrawn and shut her self up in a Solitude for the remainder of her Life. That so Conspicuous a Starre as *Aſtaſia*, said *Carnelia* again, should of her own choise leave the clear and eminent Orb of the Court, where her Sister also moves with most prevailing Splendors and Influences, and for altogether betake herself to the obscure Station of a Rural Privacy is a story of much more Rarity and Wonder than that I should easily believe it, did any other but your self tell me it. I never spake any thing more true, said *Alcidor*: And I never heard any thing more strange, said *Carnelia*, more strange, adjoyned she, than that the Fair can live content in a separation from *Alcidor* who is looked upon as her Heart and Soul. I know not, said *Alcidor*, what Immaginations the World hath either of her or me; but this I can faithfully assure you, our Conversation was never but very innocent and unblameable, and I conveighed her not away but with the King's Approbation. I am not about, returned *Carnelia*, to make an ill Judgment of her, whom, notwithstanding that her Husbands jealousie hath made more than a few of the Oppinion that you have had an absolute

absolute Power over her and governed her according to your Mind, I have always believed to be entirely sage and to have steered her Conversation with an unreproachable Discretion. *Cortaplan* himself, said *Alcidor*, hath by the change of his Mind, loudly confest the injustice of those suspicions which he had of her Vertue, and their reconciliation makes it sufficiently appear that it was nothing but his undeserved mistrustfulness and headlong Frenzy which carried him to treat her so ill as he did, and nothing but his treating her so ill that caused her to take that course that she did. And indeed, adjoyned *Carmelia*, whatsoever ignorant or over Critical People may say, I am altogether of the Mind that a Woman is very excuseable in doing what may be thought disrespectful to her Husband, when he without any apparent reason but out of a Giddy Undiscerning Rashness, or an Exceptious Peevish Disposition, passeth a Contumelious Sentence upon her honesty. Not but that I know that the greatest part of the Men of this Age are possest with the immagination that the more Fair a Woman is, the less Chast she is, as if Nature never formed a Person more than usually handsom, but to be more than com-

commonly Vitious. This is, said *Alcidor*, one of the grossest abuses that a Mind can possibly be seduced with, and I cannot think that any Man will leave himself to the surprize of it, Who is not so much a Fool that he knows not how to distinguish between desert and default. For what appearance does it carry of Truth that Organs well disposed in an Elegant Body should be subject to act less Vigorously in what is good than what is placed in a body of a meaner Fashion, especially considering that they whose form challengeth a Veneration for them have far more Advantages and Encouragements to do well than they who being exposed to contempt by their outsides have little care taken of them and can procure little regard to be had, either to their Persons or their Actions. Of your Mind is my Husband, said *Carmelia*, and I have often heard him say that the more beautiful he saw a Woman, the more he esteemed her Retained and sober. I have, however, Madam, resumed *Alcidor*, for a long time observed it to be true, that there is scarce any evil that rageth with so wild a Violence, that so hardly admits of a remedy, and that produces such sad and dismal effects as does the poyson of jealousie, especially

when

when drunk in by a Man of Quality and Stomach; all Theatres are died with the Blood of its Tragedies. To such a height of Fury indeed, said *Carmelia*, does this Malady use to carry him whom it possesses that rarely he can be cured but either by his own death or that of the Person at whom he takes offence. But, thanks to my kind Destiny, I have a Husband of whom I have not the least fear that he should ever be infected with this so mischievously fatal Plague. We see much stranger things come to pass, said *Alcidor*, than that there should be some Vassal of your Beauty who should pay homage to it otherwise (though Vertuously too) than *Clidamus* should think convenient. But should there be some such Man (as what Husband can hinder another Man from honoring his Wife above all other Women?) and *Clidamus* should not only take it ill, but also interdict you his company, What in that case would you resolve upon? Not to see the Person that might be suspected by him, answered *Carmelia*, that so I might remove from him all argument of afflicting himself and me. Would you then, said *Alcidor*, commit such an injustice as to slight them that honored you in favour of a distrustful quarrelsome

some Husband? I could not be accused of any injustice, or of any slighting in doing so, replied *Carmelia*, because I did it not but by constraint and out of necessary considerations of my Repose, my Reputation and my Duty. I should indeed reckon that it behoved me to put in practice all the expedients which I could have any hope would restore to a good temper him who was in so ill a one: But if I found them all unavailable, and that he would still persecute me notwithstanding all that I could do to oblige him to the contrary, I would no longer make any Difficulty of seperating my self from him. So *Astasia*, said *Alcidor*, cannot be in equity blamed for quitting *Certasilan* when she saw that by nothing that either she her self or others could either say or do he would be restrained from abusing her, and if you at any time should do the like, force to it as she was, your Vertue will appear not at all the less, since reasonably one cannot dislike unfortunates for seeking to affranchize themselves from their pressures. If I have spoken any thing to the disadvantage of *Astasia*, said *Carmelia*, you have cause to reprehend me for it; but tell me, I intreat you, what cause you have to imagine that a wise Man as is *Clidantus* and

that

that loves me with all his heart, as he does should ever turn Fool as did *Certasilan*, and by his unmerciful persecution of me, should drive me to tread the same path that did *Astasia*. As I have not Beauty nor other allectives, so no beliefe that any Man can have such regards for me, as that thence his fancy should have any thing of shaddow to vex it self about. How in saying so, Madam, interrupted her *Alcidor*, do you wrong heaven together with your self disowning the abundant wealth of Graces which its goodness hath bestowed upon you. But I must beg leave farther to tell you that as you are at a great distance lovely above others, so you are very far above others beloved. I am one that love you so, and the chains which fetter my heart in this Affection are embodied into it, and grown a much dearer part of it than that I should be willing to part with them for all the Freedome with which the World can tempt me. You are come I see, interrupted him *Carmelia*, not so much to give me your Company, as to make your self sport in jeering me. It is surely no making my self sport, nor jeering of you, returned *Alcidor*, to speak highly of that which every body that knows you prizes highly, and tell you that I adore you as with a most

Profound reverence I do, I am come to wait upon you in your journey; and withall to gain an opportunity of declaring to you that my passion, which hath a great while been kept in by the awe in which I stand of you, but which now breaks its way out by its own greatness and force. If the discovery have any thing criminal in it, inflict upon me what punishment you shall think fit, I shall make no appeal from your sentence, so long as I know that my Torment contents you. Know then, said *Carmelia*, to what I condemn you; It is to live with me as you have been wont without speaking to me of Love or Passion, it being certain that you are either free from them, or if their stroke hath reacht you, it is by the vertue of *Alcidor's* Merrit, not of mine, which I am conscious is too weak to take the meanest and most facile heart Prisoner, much less is it able to subdue yours. To these words *Alcidor* making answer, first with most Eloquent sighs and silence, then with most earnest and winning protestations, that his heart was all an entire piece of Devotion to her and to none but her; she changed her stile and told him that because she would put him to no more trouble she would endeavour to believe what he had said. Encouraged with this concession, he imprinted

kissing his upon her hand, which she not discountenancing, he industriously pursued his point with other Galantryes, and for his success evidently read it in her looks and silence that she was very well pleased with them, but withall as much ashamed as pleased.

After she had sat a while without speaking a word to him, or so much as looking him in the face, seeing Paper with Pen and Ink upon the Table she took the Pen and wrote, *I Love*, and then, he looking to see what she wrote, let drop the Pen, and fell a sighing. All which he took notice of, and better understanding the advantage of the occasion than to let it slip, he intreated her to set down the rest of her thought: to which she answering that it was without design, that that word came to hand. He again so earnestly prest her to proceed, telling her that she was too judicious to begin to write, what she had no mind to finish, and that the beginning was too good to remain imperfect, that she resumed the Pen and compleated the Sentence in these termes, *I Love* Alcidor, *if he be Discreet*. Having this short, but acceptable line, he broke out into straines of Joy, Thanks and Love, in which he who was at other times wont to

excell others, now Forte excelled himself. To repart to them, the Lady thought herself concerned to use such Language as this, I confess it is not without Reason that every one esteems you, *Alcidor*, you have powerful means to render your self Master of hearts, it is not now the first time that I knew it, and since the Princess *Floriſa*, and the sweet *Aſtaſie* hath been overcome by, and been glad to yeild to those your Powers, it cannot surely be ill thought of if I also am surprized by them. If what therefore you have told me, is true, all my Life shall witness that what I have now written is certain. I confess I love you, but I withall expect that a vertuous retainedness should have the guidance of your carriage towards me, and if otherwise you at any time prove so unsober as to desire of me, things which my honor permits me not to give you, assure your self you shall carry away nothing of ill intensions, but a denial stamp with indignation, for I love my Husband, my Honesty, and my Reputation better than to do any thing that may prejudice any of them. Your decree is juster, Madam, replied *Alcidor*, than that I should in the least go against it; and I am more effectually yours, than to cease to be so by enterprises disagreeable

to

to you. Having ſtopt a little at thoſe words, I acknowledge, Madam, went he on, that you may with equity defend me from aſpiring to thoſe Bliſſes, which you have in your power to beſtow, but which are too great for the greateſt, and of which they who have moſt worth are unworthy: yet let your charity allow, as it unblameably may, that upon this beautiful Mouth of Roſes, and this fair Boſom of Lillies (together with theſe words he kiſt them both) I proteſt before Love himſelf, that I will hence forward have no other will but yours. This on-ſet of Love, gracefully conducted as it was, *Carmelia* not having the Power to take it ill, That I may not ſhew my ſelf ſo ſevere, ſaid ſhe, in ſome confuſion of affection and modeſty, as to deny you what I may honeſtly grant you, I permit you this familiarity of Kiſſes, provided they be innocent and free from impurity; but this is the greateſt perſonal kindneſs that you are to expect from me, and that great enough to let you clearly ſee, I love you to a high degree. The priviledge, Madam, returned *Alcidor*, is of a much Nobler value, than that in the frution of it I ſhould not own my ſelf a moſt wealthy Man of happyneſs. More he was going to ſay, but *Felisbea* coming

into the Chamber interrupted their converse, and they had at that time no more opportunity of discourseing of any thing, but the journey which they were about to make together. They nevertheless expreſt their hearts to one another by signs as Emphatical as words, and having broken their Faſts, and taken the Road, they there also, though that Siſter of *Clidantus* not a little obſtructed their deerneſſes, frequently tranſmitted them by ſtealth to one another, without being at all perceived by her.

Having nothing by the way that moleſted them and *Alcidor* all along holding diſcourſes with which a very bad humour would have been diverted, they got happily to their Journey's end, and therefore alſo the more happily becauſe their arrival gave a very ſenſible mitigation to the illneſs of *Clidantus*; he ſhewed himſelf more revived by the ſight of them, and particularly of *Alcidor*, than it could be imagined his condition was capable of; and during eight dayes after their comming he carried it out well: But he was ſo ſick the ninth that his Phyſicians began to deſpiar of his recovery, and he afterwards for many dayes laboured under pains which rendred his life a burthen to him, and which though *Carmelia* entirely

tirely loved *Alcidor* infested her with so much trouble that not he whom she loved so much, could with all his consolatory endeavours put a stop to her tears. In this his condition *Felisbea* took a just and a kind Sister's part but not so much as that uncommon tenderness which she had alwayes for him would have prompted her to have taken, had her mind been at liberty; but it was called off from sympathizing with *Clidantus* by being continually taken up in admireing *Alcidor*. After she had admired him a while she grew big with Love of him, and then restlesly solicitous that he should have answerable respects for her. So much he saw by (besides other deports) the sighs and languishing regards which upon all his motions she sent after him. But his inclinations carrying his heart with too rappid a current to *Carmelia*, to suffer him to think of *Felisbea* as she desired, he dessembled his understanding of what he saw, and whatever contrivances she used (as she used several) to make him know her mind, and conform to it, he carried himself as if he was wholly ignorant of their meaning. This added very much to her anxiety and he who was the occasion of it, was enough convinced that he was so, but made shew

of believeing that it was all upon the account of her Brother. Wherefore she had sufficiently wearied her self with sighing for him, who would not rightly interest himself in it, She perswaded herself that it was requisite without any thing of disguise, to lay her heart open before him, and she had presently made her own mouth her agent, and Interpreter of it to him, had not that great portion which she had of honor and Sageness restrained her from it. It was not with a wanton Eye that she looked upon him, the mark at which she aimed was Marriage, that which he never yet shot at, and full of Vertue as she was, she would rather have hugged death than have harbored a thought unworthy of it. But yet withall her desires of haveing him for her Husband, had too much Fire in them, to be kept from venting themselves to him and seeking to have the Fuel of his kindness to feed upon. Screwed up by their urgencies, to a confidence far above her temper, she took the first opportunity of being with him, and as she was going from him, without his perceiveing her, let drop at his feet a Paper, which, his Eye quickly lighting upon it and his curiosity prompting him to take it up and peruse it, he found to have these breif contents

tents: *Alcidor's qualities are all ravishing and unless one be Marble, one cannot consider him without being wounded for him. If he is not sensible of this, he is not acquainted with himself; his only fault is that he hath an aversion to Marriage which the affections of others and his own Merit and Interests demand of him.*

He was at no pains to know whose this note was, he was too well accquainted with the mind and hand of *Felistea* not to be certain that it was hers. He was therefore not a little perplext how he should carry himself towards her, but at length he resolved to coverse with her as formerly without taking any notice to her of the writing, but shunning all occasions that might bring him into a particular engagement with her. Going in this mind to her Brothers Chamber where he knew she was, he was no sooner in her Eye, but she was all dyed with blushes and lost in shame. Observing which Emotion, he made no shew that he observed it, but, after he had askt *Clindatus* how he did, entred into a discourse with him and his Lady. She having by that means leisure of recollecting herself, after a few minutes came and sat upon the Bed-side by him, listning to his words as to harmonious Oracles,

and

and considering his person and fashion as something more than humane. They had not sat above a quarter of an hour, but there entred visiters to the sick Man; to let whom come up to him, *Alcidor* and *Felisbea* drew back and fell into a conversation by themselves. At the instant the clouds of *Felisbea*'s homor dispersed, and she grew more gay than usually, encouraged by an expectation that *Alcidor* would entertain her about her Paper. But this was far from his intentions, and he only entertained himself with her about her Brother and the company that was come in; in which terms they were when *Clidantus* called him to him, to take part in a discourse of rallery which a Lady of very good Ingenij had begun with design of diverting him.

Divided from *Alcidor* and disappointed of her hopes *Felisbea* withdrew in distraction to her Chamber, where having wept a sloud she broke out into such Language as this. No, No, *Felisbea*, it is in vain that thou striveſt to captivate this heard-hearted insensible Man. Canst thou any longer question that he slighes thee? Comeſt thou not from having too experimentall a proof of it? If he made never so little reckoning of thee, would he treat thee with so much

cold

cold indifferency? If thy Note which thou sawest him take up had pleased him, would he have been kept from speaking of it to thee? would he have made shew of knowing nothing of it? He took it and read it, but not liking what he read, he would feign himself ignorant of what he too well knows. It is a folly for thee think to make him thine; he is too much *Astasia*'s, and her attractions hold too absolute a Monarchy over him to let him be any other Womans.

While *Felisbea* was in such terms with herself *Clorangius* entred her Chamber with the Message that he came to fetch her to her Mother who it was feared, was dying, a Message which made the tears trickle down her cheeks afresh, but that as much for sorrow that she must leave *Alcidor*, as, though she loved *Dolinda* as she was in duty bound, out of a fence that she was in danger of loosing her. *Alcidor* was indeed grown an inseparable requisite to her satisfaction; she therefore deferred her journey as long as she could, but at last with wet eyes and troubled heart bad adieu to him, *Clidamus* and *Carmelia*.

If she was extreamly discontented at her going away; *Alcidor* was as glad of it, considering that as long as she had stayed he could

could never have come near *Carmelia* without finding her with her, and the same day that she went taking the advantage of her absence he and *Carmelia*, while *Clidantus* slept walkt into a little wood, private and thick which joyned to the Garden of their House: Here haveing seated themselves as conveniently as they could upon the Mossy root of a well spread Oak, and haveing no more dangerous witnesses to fear than the Birds and trees, they entred into a mutually endearing conversation, and proceeded from one kindness to another, untill they seemed at strife which of them should shew most, and till *Alcidor* began to argue with himself from *Carmelia's* freeness that she had so warm a Passion for him, that if he would but take the confidence to try, she might be brought to grant him what in colder modesty she had forbidden him to aspire to. While such thoughts past up and down in his mind, she who suspected nothing of them, but was willing to indulge as much to his and her own affections as she thought, she well might, without infringing her duty to *Clidantus*, and the rules of decency, curled his locks and kist his forehead with little less allurement than if she had a mind to dress a party against her Chastity. Confirmed by these

her

be more innocently intended dalliances in the opinion that if she was importuned she would not refuse him that which places a Lover at the top of his happiness; and interpreting the amorous wishly regards which he observed she cast upon him as a summons to make use of that conveniency of the place for the performance of what he had a mind to, he had his flames so animated that thinking no longer of any thing but quenching them (with those delights which have the Vertue both of quenching and re-ascending the thirst of Love) he solicited her to what was so disagreeable to her, that starting up from the place where she was set and looking as pale as if she had recieved some blow that made her heart fail, How, *Alcidor*, said she to him, dare you entertain me with so foul a baseness, a baseness which unspeakably astonishes and offends me together? Think you that to gratifie your brutishness I will betray my honesty? Go make your prayers to lustful women, it is at their temples that you must address your offerings. With these words fetching a deep sigh and on a sudden growing as red as she was before pale, she hastily turned to go away: but *Alcidor* who read his delinquency in her face and carriage and expresst his penitential distraction in his

own

even, held her by the Mantle and throwing himself at her feet, I acknowledg, Madam, said he to her, that the cholar that you are in is no greater than is just and reasonable: but if there be any thing in the universe that hath influence upon your spirit, I by it beseech you to pardon the unruly violence of the passion which I have for you; It is that which having deprived me of my reason hath been the cause of my impudence; and if nothing else will satisfie you, I have not a drop of blood with which I am not ready to expiate it. No, No, interrupted she him, I have no body to blame but my self who have too lightly and foolishly permitted you familiarities which have made you hope as easily to obtain the spoyls of my Chastity. But undeceive your self, *Alcidor*, and know that I should much more cheerfully love to dye than consent (as you immagine I might be induced to do) to the ruine of my honor. I am sensible, Madam, replied *Alcidor*, that my crime, though it have love for its complice, is of a very deep and ugly stain, but my repentance, if any repentance can be so, is answerable to it. I again therfore beg by all that you hold good and dear to pardon me, and I beg you not to do it, but upon condition, that if ever I fall back into the same

sume sin, you banish me for ever from your favour without leaving me the least hope of Mercy. Overcome with these words and other testimonies of remorse which he expresst in a plain and large Character, since I have reason to believe, returned she to him, that you are really troubled for the offence that you have given me, forbear trobling your self any farther, I fully pardon you, but withall, I lay an indispensable charge upon you, that you no more go against the law which I have by the Obligation of Vertue necessarily prescribed you. I confess I love you entirely, but if you imagine you shall be ever able to draw from me more than what I have told you I will allow you, know I shall run to my grave rather than bring a blot upon the integrity of my life. As for our wonted Caresses Provided you proceed not to unlawful propositions I will allow you them as heretofore, but if by allowing you them you again encourage your self to abuse me, assure your self you will oblige me to hate you as much as I love you. I farther esteem my self very happy in being at present alone with you, but least any ill should be suspected of us, let us return to *Clidamus*, who possibly may awake and send about in search of us if he finds us not by him. To this he having

replied

replied with very ingenious acknowledgments of her goodness they sealed their reconciliation with some warm kisses, and past next way out of the wood to *Clidamus* his Chamber, where when they first came in they found him asleep, but he presently awakened, and signified himself very well pleased to see them about him.

It being a Month after this before his Physicians could with their best diligence advance his Recovery to any considerable pass they in that time enjoy'd all the contentments with one another that in the eye which limited them and in the place where they were they could soberly expect, and in the enjoyment of them *Carmilia's* affection grew to such a height that she began to see by its effects that to love her lover more she loved her Husband less. This contrariety she made very assiduous efforts to overcome, but as often as she made them she so often experienced that the more she resisted, the more the forces which she had to fight against increased, and desires continually sprung up in her mind which were altogether contrary to her will and which made her wholly ashamed of her self, but which her reason setting it self to oppose there was alwayes something which obtained the victory against it.

While

While he was in this rout, which though she could not rectifie, she very discreetly concealed: her Husband by the advice of his Physicians resolved to return to *Laquea*; that which *Alcidor* liked very well both because he loved the abode of the Court, and because he made no question of having more liberty with *Carmelia* there than where they now were, and that which was now by his furtherance of it quickly put in execution.

The next day after they were come to the Royal City, *Alcidor* going, under colour of visiting *Clidantus*, to see *Carmelia*, found *Felebea* with them, whom he saluting with civility enough, and a kiss which had more of manners than heat in it, but which however so much dissolved and drew out her heart that she could hardly defend her self from falling in a swoon, the same desires repullulated in her soul which had not long since agitated it, and her humour withall shewed it self dress in lighter colours than it had for a long time been seen in. Of which latter *Carmelia* taking notice, but not understanding the ground, thought it sprung from the pleasure which she received in seeing her Brother recovered together with her Mother; *Alcidor* knew better how to judge of it, but thought not fit to alter the Opi-

nion of the one by discovering the affection of the other. But in whatsoever cheerful temper she was at first after their return, and with whatsoever illness she was afterwards struck, four dayes after she took her Bed, and eight dayes after she was laid in her Grave.

She was a Sister whom *Clidantus* loved as himself: the separation therefore workt so sharply upon him that it renewed his old illness; and the ralapse had so ill a look that it made his Physicians look for nothing good to come of it. They telling his Lady their thoughts, she called up all her constancy to expect and bear with patience the feared event; and she had withall *Alcidors* advises and comforts to assist her in that occasion: but they were neither of them so effectual, but after some days a humor spreading it self through the sick mans Body which took away the use of his Limbs, her grief wanted but little of proveing as mortal to her as his Palsey was likely to do to him. But her former Physician taking in hand the cure of it, it by little and little decreas'd, that which was the cause of it at the same time growing every day worse than other.

Six *Moons* having filled and emptied themselvs, and all the arts that were used and pains

pains that were taken with *Clidantus* (and all were used and taken that could be thought expedient) serving only to prove that his Disease was incurable, *Alcidor*, who had for the most part of that time been employed by the King in expeditions of War, finding him in this condition at his return resolved to draw all the advantage out of it that he could, and, as his passion for *Carmelia* flamed higher than ever, to make more pressing declarations of it to her than ever, serving himself therefore of the opportunity, he entertained her with regrets for the illness of *Clidantus*, with laments for her affliction, and with complaints of his own unhappiness, which brought thick clouds over her eyes and presently a large shower out of them. That done he turned to his stile to Gallantries and the Amænest Themes; he painted his fires to her with most lively and withall most Venust draughts, he with the most moving Rhetorick that he could weave represented to her how unreasonable it was that her florid youth and Beauty should be intombed in Melancholy, and what vivid, generous and elevated contentments those Lovers have who intirely and without reserve addict themselves to one another: and his success was that the air of her

looks and deportment changed from gloomy to serene, that from the picture which he made her of his fires she not only fancied that she saw them and felt them burn, but also really contracted sympathetick heats, more moveing than she ever before had felt, and that she let him see as much, as also that she approved of what he said, by complying with him more liberally than ever, and caressing him more profusely. Perceiveing how he gained ground of her he stopt not there but followed her close with professions, Blandishments, Arguments, Promises, and by their importunate and insinuating fascinations wound himself at length, as into the chief room of her heart, so into that place in her Arms, which *Clidantus* only was wont to hold, but was now no longer capable of holding. Not but that she still retained for that bed-rid Man those officious respects which were due to him from his Wife and with a tender compassion painfully edeavoured his ease and releif. It was the same compassion, though she might have some thoughts that of *Clidantus* his Widdow she should become *Alcidor's* Wife, which compelled her sometimes to joyn with him in the Prayers which he made, that since he could expect no other remedy

death

death would be his Physician and release him. his life was indeed drawn out with so much torment that it was a true kindness to him to wish the thred of it cut of, and that *Delinda* her self who had brought him into the VVorld continually desired to see him go out of it. He having continued six months longer in this sad condition the wishes of himself and his Friends were granted, his Soul taking wing and leaving his Body to be laid to bed in the Earth, that which his Lady took care to have done with a magnificence which purchaced her a great Name, and with tears which were her witnesses that though she had sometimes in consideration of his misery wisht him in his Grave, she would have been very ready to have fetcht him out of it.

Clidantus gone, *Alcidor* and *Carmelia* lived in *Paquin* in a corespondence of which there would have been good reason to have admired the sweetness, if there had not been some occasion to have distructed the innocence. The intimacy of it bringing the Ladie's vertue into suspition, the Ladies who were wont to frequent her company, by little and little forbore visiting her. Not able to overlook which disrespect, or to question the ground upon which they

built it, she took occasion to speak of it to *Alcidor*, that so she might clear her conscience and engage him to remove her disrepute by the Marriage which she daily expected from him; And he fed her expectation with promises fitted to her palate, but withal, having no mind to come under the yoke, which she would have put upon him, he determined to disengage himself from her as soon as handsomly he could. To effect what he had determined, he concluded with himself to go pass some Moneths in one of his country Houses, but to her he pretended that the King had commanded him upon his service into a remote Province, that which she easily believed, in regard of the equipage which she saw him provide for his departure, and he withall perswaded her to retire from the Court and live privately in the Country during his absence, that which she readily consented to. All things being prepared for the separation and the day come, he saw the grief with which she resented it flow with so large a stream in her Eyes, and he had in his own breast such a reluctancy to it that he was upon the point of desisting from his purpose, and of resolving not to leave her: But considering that

that if he ſtayed with her any longer he muſt either unworthily abuſe or elſe Marry her, from both which he had many reaſons that diſſwaded him, he enforced himſelf to go on with what he had undertaken, and what he ſaw neceſſary, though harſh. After therefore they had both ſighed enough, they bad the Court and one another farewel, he takeing his way, and ſhe hers.

Come into his Province, *Alcidor* by the Proofs which he gave of his qualities made all other the brighteſt Perſonages appear to him but as glimmering Stars to the Sun in blaze, and like a Miracle drew all eyes and affections after him. But he who made all that ſaw him in love with him, could not keep himſelf from being in love with another. He ſaw ſhine a beauty, which (when he had examined Eyes, Face, Shape, Aire, Port, all) he could wiſh nothing either added to or taken from, and which, as the Sun puts out all leſſer lights and fires, extinguiſht in his mind the glories not only of *Floriſa* and *Aſtaſia* but of *Carmelia* alſo, and brought in the incomparable *Dorame* to rule there alone. This young Widow who was iſſued of one of the beſt Houſes of *China* appeared to him to have ſo much of divine in her, that he without any ſcruple ſacrificed to her his

whole heart, and that with a different devotion from what he had formerly paid at Femal shrines. It seemed altogether unjust to him not to love her with a pure integrity and for all his life, or in loveing her not to build upon Vertue, not to aim at Marriage, not to breath after better things than Voluptuous sensual enjoyment. Become thus in a Moment of a Volatile Libertine a constant and faithful subject of Love, before he made any discovery of his intentions he examined his own Birth, Actions and Fortunes, to see if these were advantages weighty enough to allow him hopes of gaining such a possession as was that which he had in his wishes, and when indeed he well considered what he was, it was impossible that the lustre of his own worth, should cast his rayes about him without lighting him to see that he sufficiently merited what he had a mind to obtain.

Celebriously accomplisht as *Dorame* was, would she from the time that her dear *Clisidas* expired have entertained propolals of a second Husband, she might have had the same day of his Funerals, to have been that also of her Nuptials. More than a few of the higher rank sought her in Mariage, and this her new Passionate was not ignorant of; but

but there was no body whom he feared but her, whom he loved, and nothing that he cared for but to make her love him. But before that he by any suites or declarations to her delivered his mind of that with which it was big, he thought it best often to visit her, and every time that he visited her, as he found in her Wit, Humour, Fashion, Form, some new occasion of admiring her and of coveting her with impatience for his Wife, so the generousness and sweetness of his disposition, the equability and moderation of his temper, the Elegancy and sublimeness of his Ingenij, the gracefulness of his Person and carriage, and the great Civility or rather Devotion of his respectfulness to her, more and more nourishe and augmented that kind esteem which from her first knowledge of him she had conceived for him, so that before it was long, if she had at any time any thoughts of being re-married, it was only to *Alcidor*, that which would have made him account himself a most happy Man had he been acquainted with it, but she very watchfully concealed it from him.

From these same frequent visits that he made to her and other observables of his actings, though he had told his own soul only the zeal which he had of applying himself

fell to her a ſervant of love, people generally argued a probability of it, his competitors in particular conceived ſo ſtrong an opinion of it, that they all ſuperſeded from waiting upon her, ſome affraid of meaſuring Swords with him, others knowing that they could not meaſure Deſerts with him. He would have been better contented that ſome of the moſt gallant of them ſhould have continued firm in their purſuite, that ſo they diſputeing the prize with him, his Victory (or fall) might have been the more illuſtrious. But ſeeing them all forſake the liſts of her ſervice he one day took occaſion to ſpeak of it to her.

He having upon which ſubject ſaid what he thought convenient, It is my ill fortune returned ſhe to him, which will have them in the Series of my Converſation obſerve my want of Merit, and then withdraw that they may looſe no more time in remarking in me defects which oblige them to fly from me inſtead of following me. And you, Sir, added ſhe, after you have known me a while will Judge it neceſſary to do the like. What wayes one may invent, cryed *Alcidor*, interrupting her, to reproach the greateſt excellencies under Heaven! The reaſons why they quit you, Madam, continued

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he with a low respect, is because they are sensible that the zeal with which I adore you is abundantly stronger, purer and more faithful than theirs, and therefore, though it hath no Merit in it self, yet, in comparison with theirs, deserves to be better received and recompens'd: And imagine not, for you will be unjust if you do so, that I have so distemper'd a spirit as ever to imitate those extravagants who meet their shame in their inconstancy.

This discourse comming a little unexpectedly, but very acceptably to her from him for whom she had more affection than ever she had for any, her beloved *Clicidas* excepted; In earnest, Sir, replied she presently, you have a very ingenious art, and you are very industrious in using it to make your self sport with those absents and with me; and you would perswade me into a strange belief, should I give up my self to hearken to you: but as little discretion as I have, I have so much as to understand your flatteries and to know what ear and credit I am to give them. If *Alcidor* loves, it is not *Doraime* that he loves, he aspires to things more exalted, and Princesses, not such as I, are the objects of his Vows. I wish no more, Madam, replied *Alcidor* to her, than that my satisfacti-

satisfaction depended upon the truth of this, that I think there is nothing humane to which I can aspire more exalted than your self; and that is my next Religion under what I ow to Heaven to vow and pay to you all that Man can Vow and pay to Woman. For Heaven knows that, though I have stayed till now to tell you so, from the first minute that I saw you, my breast hath been nothing else but a region of fires which your beauties kindled, and which burn to you with as fervent and clear a devotion as ever did those upon the *Persian* Altars to the bright Eye of the World. It is too probable that you account it criminal in me to be a Candidate of those Felicities which *Clistas* while he lived enjoyed; but make what judgment of me and disposal you think good, I shall never the more cease to pay homage to you and nevertheless endeavour to make good the quality of your servant.

Having many arguments to believe that these words had nothing of cozening paint or artifice in them but were the genuine dictates of his heart wholly given up to her, *Dorame* stood still a while pleasing her self with the acquisition that she had made, Then if it be true, Sir, returned she that you have that kindness for me that you pretend,

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it it also true that I reap a most plentiful honor and advantage by it, and that I should be both very ungratful and very unwise together should I deny it an agreeable reception: and you have for my encouragement the appearance and the estimation of a more generous Man, than to design the abusing a Widow who reckons nothing more recommendable than your vertue or more worthy of an Empire than your accomplishments, and who therefore accounts it a most weighty subject of glory to her to see you stoop to consider her otherwise than she can by any title of her own challenge. You are highly injurious to your self, Madam, replyed he, in disclaiming the pretensions which by the graces of which you are owner you may most rightfully make: As you in complement name me uncapable of a Scepter, I seriously and with good reason esteem you worthy of a Crown. I see I can gain nothing upon you, rejoyned she, your tongue, not to contradict that great opinion that every one hath of you, delighting to shew its Pomp in perswading me more victoriously, that which you would have me believe. There needs no art of words, returned *Alcidor*, to declare a truth so plain as is that of your overtopping worth, its rayes will break through the

the thickeſt veil. I am ſenſible indeed that the more perfection you have and know you have, the leſs hope I can have that you ſhould give to one ſo defective as I am, that place in your heart that I dye for; but yet I cannot chuſe but ſay that if you will conſult the World about your qualities, I am willing you ſhould name me Impoſtor, and treat me as ſuch a one if all that know you do not avow you one of the chiefeſt of thoſe pieces which are matter of Admiration to them. I very well know, anſwered *Dorame*, that only to hear you ſpeak is enough to take away from the eyes and ſpirit of thoſe that hear you, the faculty of judging things as they appear: I will therefore conteſt no longer with you, as being certain of the conqueſt which you have a mind to win. I yield you that which you at preſent contend for; let us now diſcourſe of ſomething elſe. What can I diſcourſe of to you, reparted *Alcidor*, ſo much to my mind as of the perfections which you have in your ſelf, and of the affections which I have for you? But to obey you I will at preſent ſay no more of either of them, provided that you will promiſe me to believe what I have already ſaid of both. To give you a ſatisfaction, ſaid *Dorame* to him, I agree to what you ask, ſo far

far as my Conſcience of my ſelf will allow me, and I ſhall doubt leſs of your love than of my own merit, ſince you have ſo great a deſire to aſſure me of the former, and I have ſo little reaſon to aſſure my ſelf of the latter. I ſhall indeed be very much at eaſe, Madam, reſumed *Alcidor*, if you will reckon my Paſſion as true, ſerious and great, as it really is, and as I have a deſire to give you teſtimonies that it is; but it will be with hopes that you will retaliate it to me, which if I miſs of my eaſe will prove as little as is that of the wounded Man who knows that the Chyrurgion upon whom his recovery depends is ſufficiently acquainted with his wounds, but will not take in hand the Cure of them.

At this Language *Dorame* caſting down her looks and forbearing to anſwer, *Alcidor* threw himſelf upon his knees before her in the faſhion of a Homager, if not a Worſhipper. She ſtooping to raiſe him up, her cheek came ſo near his mouth that tempted with the opportunity he could not forbear touching it with his lips, which (performed as it was with a graceful delicacy) ſhe not ſhewing her ſelf diſpleaſed with, accended with the favour, and willing from that ſtep to derive pretence to another, he roſe and with a new confidence but alſo with a

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reverence not much different from that of Religion made some closer impressions of his lips upon her mouth and eyes, not indeed without being reproved by her for it, but that with a sweet and soft mildness which showed she could not be much offended with that which was only to be attributed to the excess of his love, and which encouraged him to doe the like, again rather than deterred him from it.

He having after a few days by the endearing engageing powers of his Merit and courtship prevailed with her plainly to accept of his service, their conversation had so much vertuous amœnity and sweetness in it, that it was a great deal of pitty it should have been interrupted; but he was constrained to go to accord a quarrel of which he was made Arbiter, and the law of his charity did them the ill office of separating them, that which they would have accounted yet a worse office, had they not considered that the Adversaries whom he went to reconcile deserved that he should take that pains for them.

Two days after his departure she was surprized in her Chamber by *Rolimon*, *Melian* and *Vindorix*, where this Uncle and Cozens had not stayed long before they told her that they

they had not at present made a Journey to her but to solicit her to receave for her Husband her old Lover *Cartagenes*, whose worth and quallity were no more unknown to her than were his Love and and services. In answer to which she who had taken the retreat of that Cavaleir as well as of her other suitors for a sign, either of a frigid affection or a faulty courage; they having never visited her since *Alcidor* frequented her, freely declared the ill opinion which she had concieved of him as well as of the rest. *Rolimon* did his endeavour to remove from her this impression, speaking all that he could to the advantage of his friend; but he after all found that it was but labor in vain to go about to replace him in her favour. He ceasing therefore to alledge any thing more in his behalf, she changed her action and language, and succinctly told them all that had past between her and *Alcidor*, so handsomely representing to them the Love which he had propounded to her, that they resented a high delight in hearing it, and earnestly counselled her to think of no other Husband. *Alcidor*, said *Rolimon*, besides that he is of an illustrious Bloud, is Master of Quallities, altogether uncommon to the World, his Courage maks him feared, his

Courtesie loved, every thing of him admired; he hath gained a reputation of a large extent and a most glorious nature; and hath deserved it as well as gained it, having done as eminent things as ever Man of his age and condition. Riches and Grandeurs do not at all blind him or allure his mind to a higher or more eager flight than becomes him: But had he occasions of enterprizing things satisfactory to the height and magnitude of his soul, his Element would be to conquer Kingdoms. A great Princess and as fair as great would have made it her glory to have gained him for her Husband, but that she could not dispose of her own will, nor could he conclude it convenient for him to Marry so famous a Parsonage. If he loves you, as I have no reason to doubt but he does by the testimonies that you have given us of it, and your good Fortune brings you to be his Wife, as I have hopes it will, you may with a just confidence rank your self among the most happy Women of *China*. I know his humour, I am acquainted with his Birth and Education; I understand a great part of the motions of his Life, and can therefore speak of him, as I do with assurance. You speak too much on his side, *Sir*, said *Dorame*, not to make him uppear amiable and to oblige me

to

to court his neereſt friendſhip. Satisfied therefore as I am, that you know he outweighs *Cartagenes*, I am reſolved to follow your adviſe and not by a diſ-ingenious, fooliſh, unworthy coyneſs, debarre my ſelf of the preſent, which heaven ſeems willing I ſhould receive. You have reaſon indeed, Couzen, interpoſed *Melian*, to think no more of your old ſervants, for the one *Alcidor's* luſtre darkens all theirs how conſiderable ſoever. He who knows him, ſaid *Viodorix*, and will not acknowledge him compoſed of worth, muſt be concluded either to overflow with envy, or to be very defective in judgment, I with a great deal of Solicitouſneſs wiſh you married to him, and I am in continual fear leaſt this good fortune ſhould be raviſht from you by ſome ſiniſter accident. Heaven, if it thinks good, returned *Dorame* to him, will preſerve him from me. You had ſeen him here at preſent had not a quarrel between two of his friends called him away; but to morrow he is to return, and if he loves not me, yet he loves his word better than to fail. I wiſh, reſumed *Rolimon*, that he veiled not his deſign from you, and inſtead of going to agree ſome friends is, not gone to fight ſome Enemy. Give not your ſelf the trouble of ſuch

fears, replied *Dorame* to him, for I am very certain he hath nothing of difference of his own to decide with any body, having sight of a Letter which informed me he was only arbitrator in a disagreement of others. But since you are particularly acquainted, as you was saying, with his life, the History of it, during his absence, would be a diversion very agreeable to me if not a labor too troublesome to you, You could not ask me a thing, answered her, *Rolimon*, which is more to my mind, than to entertain you with what I understand of his affairs, and if you will not give me that attention which I may claim as their right, I doubt not but to make you confess that few things more considerable have come to your ears. Presently *Melian*, *Vindorix* and *Dorame* seating themselves about him, he began his Narration in these Tearms.

The History of *Alcidor*.

SInce I have undertaken to give you an account of as much as I know of *Alcidor's* Life, it is just that I first shew you what his Original was and what his younger Motions, that so by the one you may see what a Noble Stock he grows upon, and by the other what an Elevation of Spirit he gave evidence of in his feeble years. He is Issued by his Father *Miraldus* of one of the most antient Houses of the Province of *Quinci*, by his Mother *Deisila* of a Branch Royal of *China*, by both allied to the most Eminent Families of the Kingdom. The Pomp of his Birth was equal to the height of it, there was no body considerable in the Vicinage who came not to welcome him into the World, and Feasts,

Balls, and all the more fashonable and elegant expressions of joy were for five days together the exercises of them that came. The first hours of his birth, they who seriously considered him, not out of flattery but judgment, congratulated his Parents concerning him, as a work of their Mariage which Nature had taken a pleasure to render compleat. They themselves indeed could not look upon him without fancying his eyes, beamings of a Genius that promised nothing mean; and he gave a very early confirmation of their Fancy; for by that time he had gotten over four years he delighted himself in nothing so much as in seeing Arms and Horses, and in handling the one and mounting the other, thereby giving Omens that holding dear in his Childhood the instruments of glory, he would in time prove by them as worthy an Heir of *Miraldus* his Reputation, as of his Estate.

When he had attained to an age capable of learning things worth the knowing, he found nothing difficult to him but comprehended them wholly almost as soon as he had the beginnings of them taught him. I my self have, not without astonishment, observed him to understand at seven years that which a better spirit than ordinary must have

have been a great deal of pains to apprehend at twelve, his judgment and gracefulness were while he was a Child advanced to a maturity that spake him Man. Grown bigger he shewed himself furnisht with so many excellent quallities that his glad Parents thought it time that he should see the Superbe Court of *Florimen*, where they hoped he would one day make his Vertue shine, and there, if he was taken with the beauties of the place he took all that saw him with the early and most hopeful blossomes of his youth; *Arcantus* in particular the King's Brother took him into his Bosome, and affectionately made it his care that there should be nothing wanting to the rendring of him a most compleat person.

The various practises of the *Indian* Kingdome inciting the great Lords of *China* to revolt anew, and combustions being by that means kindled and blown up very dammagable to the State, in aggravation of the disorder, *Arcantus* complained that he was slighted, and that *Podamus*, *Orastes* and *Belliman* had in the Counsell of the twelve Auditors without calling him to it, acted as they thought good, very much in prejudice of his concerns. Nor did he complain only, but also, not able to brook the

Bravades of those Princes who were Strangers from the Royal Bloud, he departed from Court and levied Forces. In these *Alcindo* commenc't the Souldier, following his Colours with an ardor answerable to the obligation which he had to him, and which remarkably auspicated those great things which he afterwards performed.

From this spring many different motions arising in *China*; the Prince *Arcantes* within a few days publisht a Declaration, in which he protested that he had not departed and armed but to employ his Fortunes, Forces and Life, to remove the Authors of the publick confusion, to prosecute justice for the Rapines and Massacres comitted during the Reign of *Trasilas*, and to restore the many Lords, Gentlemen and others that were in Prison and in Exile. In pursute of this Declaration to encrease his Appennage and by common armes recover peace to the Nation, he joyned himself with those of the new sect (as it was called) of Religion. But the Queen-Mother seeing that his Resentments and proceedings enfeebled rather than strengthened the authority which she assumed over all affairs made a journey to him, and by her powerfull influence and Prudential workings obtained

tained a success of Hostility, for six Moneths.

By the end of this time *Polianis* Brother in Law to *Elorimen* by the Marriage of his Sister having made an escape from Court a potent Army of Male-contents was in the Field and *Arcantes* marching in the head of them. To oppose them, *Orastes* and those of his House framed a League and drew the King to sign it, and all was ready to be undone, when to take from the factious all pretext of fishing in troubled Waters, *Arcantus* returned to good tearms with the King, having obliged him to hold a general Counsell of the Kingdom for recompensing the good, punishing the bad, and setting right what was out of order.

All quarrels appeased between the two Royall Brothers, the Revolters sent abroad their Manifesto's, and in calming this disturbance, was the King detained when came Deputies of the Province of *Loxa* to beg succors of him, and to demand the Prince his Brother for Protector of their Liberties against the *Indians*. What they askt they obtained; *Arcantus* was presently declared Lieutenant General, and with a considerable sum took his way to *Brema*, *Alcidor* both by the Prince's invitation, and by

by the instigation of his own humor went one of the company thither, and he saw there so much Honor paid to *Arcanus* and so much affection shewed to the meaneſt of his retinue, that he was ready to repute their aboade there for that of *Florimen's* Palace, and that fair Town for the Florishing City of *Paquin*. All were indeed received by their new Hosts with as much kindneſſes, as if they had been in their own Houſes but they ill repaid their kindneſſes, and and by grand diſorders made them too quickly reckon, that the *Chinoiſe* tuition was leſs eaſie to brook than the *Indian* Tyranny. In ſhort, whatſoever good order *Arcanus* could take, who in an exemplary manner cauſed the inſolents to be puniſht, they who were called in for ſuccour loaded with ſuch ill uſages by thoſe that had called them; that to diſenſlave and revenge themſelves together, they turned to weave conſpiracies againſt them, and reſolved by an univerſal Maſſacre to diſgorge them. From the reſolution they ſoon paſt to the execution, and it was ſo bloudy a one, that the Prince did not but with much difficulty ſave himſelf from it. A great part of his People were aſſaſſinated in *Brema*, and *Alcidor* had in all likelyhood ran the ſame fortune, had not the faithful *Turgiſtus* kept him concealed in his

Houſe

House till the rage of the multitude was blown over. His Prince having left behind him that infamous aboade, when so much nobleness had in a most horrid manner a Burying place given them, not seeing him among those that escaped, believed without any farther hopes and therefore not without a Pathetick sorrow that he had been Sacrificed to the same barbarous fury with the rest. With the same sad conclusion were *Miraldus* and *Deifila*, after all the information that they could get, forced to sit down, wholly overwhelmed with grief. But while they were lamenting him as dead, he on a sudden presented himself to them alive and well, and together with himself *Turgistus* as the invaluable freind who had first saved him from the tempest, and then taking the advantage of the fair weather that succeded it had put him in disguise and conducted him to them. That the sight of him did in a moment change all their blacks into colors of extream joy and that his Deliverer had large heaps of remunerations thrown upon him, I supose, I need not tel you.

Orastes and his confederates, not able better to authorize their Monopolies than by setting the Subject against the King, did by their subtle acts so effectually work them

to

to their purpose that to hear their insolent discourses of their Sovereign and his Government would have inclined one to say that he was bound to hold in fee of their capriciousness. In prosecution of this they took up Arms and brought into the World the designs which they had been a long time hatching, by the same means sending *Ascantus* out of it, who with greif to see his Brother and the Kingdom involved in the confusion of a sixth civil War, wherein also he saw his own pretensions reversed, fell sick and dyed. After his death the King who had no Child caused *Poliarus* to be received as the first Prince of the Bloud and Prime Victory of *China*. Where the Leaguers deriving fresh pretexts of dissatisfaction spake not of the King but with an unsufferable contempt, told the Multitude that *Poliarus* would bring the true Religion of *China* under the yoke of the new Sectaries, sowed abroad defamatory Libels, vigorously carried on their Counsels in the Provinces of *Iroquiam* and *Cantan*, begot a numerous increase to their party in *Paquin* and every where induced the People to rise, who were otherwise disposed to it by the corruptions of the Court. To prevent the ruine which by this means hung over the Publick

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and to that purpoſe to waſh away the foundations of the Confederacy that threatned it, the King diſpatcht Letters into all his Provinces, wherein he obliged the Governors of places and perſons of quallity not to abandon his ſervice and the common good. Among theſe, *Alcidor*, though eminently recommendable for his Birth Courage, Vertues and Intereſts; and though Maſter of a very large Eſtate which his lately deceaſt Father had left him, was forgotten to be put by the King. This forgetfulneſs, boyling with a generous heat of Soul, he took for a Mark of contempt, and was toucht with it to the quick: from the emotion he proceeded to a conſideration of conſcience, and repreſenting to himſelf that the Party of the League was of the true Religion and undertook its defence againſt the other, he grew to an opinion that to follow them was to fight for God. Notice of his diſcontent by ſome factious inſtruments brought to *Oraſtes*, he quickly ſent to viſit him with Officers of all the Advantages which in ſuch a War he could on his ſide hope for, and when, not a little pleaſed to ſee himſelf ſought to by a Prince of ſo advanced a name and ſwaying influence he as he thought himſelf bound to do, went to

him

him, that perfect Courtier by the inevitable ſpels with which he laid hold upon him brought him with fervour to embrace his ſide againſt that of his Sovereign. Which done, to keep him his, as he made him, and withal to take the benefit of his being ſo, he gave him Moneys and Commiſſion to raiſe five hundred Horſe, and he in execution of the truſt was on a ſudden ſeen at the head of many ſilent Men, attempting and atchieving things which, called, not only the vulgar but the braveſt of the Nation to take notice of him with admiration, and which particularly purchaſed him the good will of *Lifantus* one of the moſt Gallant chiefs of the party.

The heads of the League, to give it good colour and to draw ſtrength to it, had publiſht very ſpecious principles as motives of it, and had conjured the Princes, Nobles and Commons to ſtand up for the Antient faith againſt the Novel, which they ſaid the King favoured againſt them, by that Lure decoying into them multitudes of credulous People. To impede this the King put abroad a Declaration in which he cleared himſelf from the ſeveral blots wherewith they aſperſed him and particularly teſtified that he bore a ſincere and conſtant love to the ſettled Religion of *China*; that which diſarmed a great

great number of People and some of them very considerable; but not *Alcidor*, who persisted so affectionate to the cause which he had espoused, believeing himself bound to venture, and if need required, to spend his Life in its quarrel, that nothing but death seemed of power to discover him from it. In proportion to his affection did his courage and Prudence labour for its advantage, but notwithstanding all the endeavors both of him and others to hold it up, they saw it in a short time so enfeebled and bent to fall that they were constrained to incline to peace, and to return it, not for always, yet at least for a time to the obedience of their King.

It was indeed no long time before they who had been so forced to lay down their Arms had taken them up again; which *Polianis* seeing put himself in the Field with a very considerable Strength, and as first Prince of the Bloud declareing their practises Felonious protested, he would as faithfully as necessarily defend against them the prerogative of the King, the State of the Queen Mother, and the fundamental Laws of the Realm. In sequel of this the War becoming open, *Alcidor* got on Horse back and ranged himself in the Army that was led

led by *Lucimon*, where continually seeking occasions of Action he signalized his vertue and aggrandized his name by deeds, which were altogether wonders. But he could not by all that he could do, protect that Brother of *Orastes* from being as continually molested so in several Battels notably beaten by the Brother-in-law of *Florimen*.

Lucimon after a while advancing to *Paquin*, whose Inhabitants had been diligently chafed to stir, and lookt with jealousie upon the intervier which *Polianis* and the Queen Mother had lately had, and there by the interest of *Orastes* whom they worshipt as a God, making what impression upon them he desired, *Orastes*, himself in another quarter with loud and sharp invectives complaining of the King that he had labored against his own work by revoking an authentick Edict of Peace by another which he had made since, carried on the War with a very sedulous and potent hand. In the end the *Indians* being called in by him and following his call, and the Kingdom being on all sides imbraced with Hostility, the Opponent Armies came to a bloody Fight, in which *Lucoris* was slain, *Poliams* remained Victorious, and the vanquisht were reduced

to

to such an universal disorder, extream confusion and miserable estate that they who escaped from the deluge of blood that was shed, had wholly exposed themselves to the mercy of the Conquerors, had it not been for *Alcidor*, who as in the Battel, so in the rout and Flight, did all that it was possible for a Man of heart, to do. He with a management which can never be too much applauded carried of the said relicks of the shipwrack, drew them into a Body and offered fair for the repairing of the loss. But the Commanders proved too timerously affected towards the undertaking, and the Soldiers more eager of securing, than of hazarding themselves and of running a way than of Fighting again.

The revolt was thus set at Bay; but the principal Authors of it determined, rather to Abyss themselves in the ruines of the State, than change the course which they had begun: and presently the King from all parts received Advertisement of the conspiring of his Subjects. For the necessary security therefore both of his Person and his head City, he put a Garrison in it; which *Oraſtes* looking upon as intended a curb to his ambitious practises he so powerfully incited the people that they fall to barricading

and committed ravages altogether unworthy of *Chimaifes*, and which made the King leave *Paquin* to go seek a shelter against the storm that threatned his life. The King and with him the Court gone, the Miserable Citizens sensible of the wound which they had thereby received, repented of their disobedience and desired the Parliament to beg their Pardon and humbly beseech his Majesty to return to his Palace, and by his presence restore to that great Town the abundant Emoluments which his removal had taken from them. But this, reckoning himself justly incenst, he resolvedly denied; his denial very much perplext both the People and their leaders, and to warrant themselves from the mischeifs which they saw were likely to fall upon their heads they set new Engines on work and made new experiments. *Plorimen* on the other side armed, both against them, and those of the other Religion, and against both obtained very important victories; All things went to his advantage. Which *Orastes* seeing, and that after whatsoever manner he steered his designs they sailed not with an untoward wind, he demanded an assemby of the general Counsel of the Kingdome to the end, as he said, of re-establishind peace and replacing

placing the King's Subjects in a perfect Obedience. The King having granted what he demanded, and opened that great Court with a speech, of which the Eloquence and Conduct made him admired for one of the wisest and most excellent heads that wore a Crown, he, who had braved his authority confidently, presented himself before him, and he recieved him with a gratious aspect, but not long after by the advise of his Counsel dispatcht him out of the World. Upon notice of which Execution the People of *Paquin* broke out into extremeties which trampled all their allegiance under foot, and in revenge of it *Lucimon* raised them that were exasperated in plain rebellion, and after their example several of their chief Towns of *China*, and having gained a formidable strength advanced towards *Florimen* with a confidence of making him his Prisoner. But upon intiligence of his enterprize *Poliamis* reconciled himself with the King, employed his Arms in his succor and forc't the Enemy to fly. In this occasion was *Alcidor* engaged on the side of *Lucimon* and performed all the parts of a Man of courage but was constrained to give place to Equity and Force.

A little after having notice that his friend

Tyrenas was taken Prisoner and kept at *Chinanfu* he contrived and effected the conveiyance of a Letter to him, wherein he assured him that he would, if possible, suddenly procure his liberty, either by Money, or Exchange, or some other means; and what he promised he faithfully endeavored by Offers of tearmes, but altogether unprofitably.

He therefore wove a project of surprizing the place, which he communicated to *Lisantus*, and which he highly approving they caused a silent number of Souldiers to be habited like villagers, but armed under their habits, and sent them with instructions under shew of going to Market to seize one of the gates, but before thy could seize it they were discovered and the body of the guard alarrumed. They, notwithstanding that, after a hot assault and vigorous resistance made themselves Masters of it. At the noise which they made *Alcidor* powred in with the Men which he had in readiness for the purpose, and after him *Lisantus* with a greater force, and having taken the first Body of the Guard and all without, seized a Canon that was pointed against them, and pointed it against the Town. Amazed with which, and looking upon themselves as unable to resist, those of the Garrison recieved

received the Laws of the Conqueror. I need not repreſent to you the pleaſure of *Tyrenas* to find himſelf at liberty and the acknowledgments that he made to the Authors of it; they are eaſie enough to be immagined.

In this part of the relation *Dorame*, could not forbear interrupting her Uncle and telling him that all the actions of *Alcidor* had ſo much Beauty in them that ſhe let none of them paſs without giving them acclamations; but this laſt of all the reſt, conſidering eſpecially, added ſhe, that ſuch men who will hazard their lives for them whom they pretend to love, are very rare in this age, in which falſhood and diſſimulation raign far more powerfully than either Fidelity or freeneſs. It is uſual with *Alcidor*, Coſin returned *Roliman* to her, to perform that which is not uſual with others, and there are ſeveral paſſages of his ſtory, yet behind by which you will ſee he hath an unqueſtionable title to more than common Encomiaſticks and that upon the ſcore not of one only but of many vertues.

A Few days after the ſurpiſal of *Chinanſu*, went he on, *Alcidor* had information brought him that the Governour whom he and *Liſantus* had placed in it, deſigning to better his fortune by betraying his truſt, was a-

bout to dispose it to the service of the King; with which he having acquainted *Lisanus*, they only with two Men put themselves into the place, secretly called together some of the principal Persons of it, and by the Oratory that they used moulded them into the form that they desired. That done they assembled the chief of the Governour's Party and with the Poniard at their throat made them promise to serve the League; they turned out the old Governor and settled one of approved Integrity in his room, they took an Oath of Fidelity of all the People, and made the Garrison most firmly theirs.

No sooner had they with a great deal of honour accomplisht this, which they had with enough of danger enterprized, but *Lucimon* informed of *Florimens* advance towards *Paquin* conjured *Alcidor* with all speed to put himself into it, to defend it. But with this part of his life, I am not throughly acquainted particularly not with the love, which they say, he and the Princess *Floriſſa* had at that time for one another. Hearing him say so, I am very sorry, said *Dorame* to him, that you can relate nothing to us of that business with which I have been more than once entertained, but

so

so confusedly that I understand litt... and which I assure my self is none of the meanest imbellishments of that life that you are recounting. The occurencies of it are indeed very divertising, said *Vindorix*, and such that one cannot well hear without having one's spirit made a kind of a Prisoner to them. You have then a knowledg of them, said *Dorame* to him. I have a great deal of reason to blame my Memory, resumed *Rolimon*, for not re-calling that my Nephew was during all the Siege shut up in *Paquin* with *Alcidor*; so that there is no body who so well as he can preserve his story from having one of his chiefest ornaments retrencht. I must acknowledge, reparted *Vindorix*, I not only was a witness of the Atchievements of War which *Alcidor* performed in that Siege, but I was also no stranger to the intrickes of love which past then between him and the Princess *Florisa*. I was for that time his Companion in Arms, and he made few enterprises upon our Enemyes in which I was not his assistant. One designe had engaged us to the League, and reckoning to act vigorously for our conscience and glory, we upon all occasions put our selvs upon dangers for a party which we have since found

unjuſt and too late abandoned. But, not to waſt time in that which is nothing to our preſent purpoſe, I ſhall give you all the account that I can of that which you deſire to know.

As *Vindorix* was opening his mouth to begin what he had to ſay, word was brought to *Dorame* that there were two Gentlemen alighted who deſired to pay her their reſpects. Having ſent back him who brought the word to conduct them in, and riſing up to go and receive them, ſhe ſaw enter her Chamber two near Kinſmen of *Clortaſtes* who a little before would have Duelled *Cartagenes* as his rival in her love. *Rolimon*, *Orlian* and *Vindorix*, being well acquainted with them, quickly learnt what it was that had brought them thither. Which being to ſolicite *Dorame* to accept their kinſman for her Husband, *Rolimon* made ſuch a rehearſal to them of the refuſal which ſhe had given him and his companions ſuing for *Cartagenes*, that they lookt upon it as unreaſonable for them to imagine that they could obtain of her for their friend what her Uncle and Couſins could not for theirs. They were made yet farther to deſpair of prevailing with her by *Vindorix* aſſuring them that there had paſt mutual profeſſions of kindneſs

nels between her and *Alcidor*. In the last place *Dorame* herself deprived them of all hope, speaking to them of *Alcidor* as of one whom she had reason to love, and whom therefore she really did love above all those who had made suite to her. Unable therefore to disapprove the choice that she had made and unwilling to travel their spirits to make Marble sensible, they supersceded from their negotiation and past to congratulate to her the affections of him, of whose value they avowed they had sufficient cognisance. In such discourses they held one another till Supper time; when *Dorame* contrary to the intentions which *Floris* and *Lucidas* had of going away that night engaged them to sit down at Table with her. After supper going to spend what remained of the day in the Garden they fell presently upon their former subjects, *Cartagenes*, *Cloriastes* and *Alcidor*, and all agreed to give the last a higher form in their Elogies than to either of the former, but that *Cartagenes* was to be set above *Cloriastes*, or *Cloriastes* above *Cartagenes* would by no means be yielded by *Floris* and *Lucidas* on the one side, or by *Rolimon*, *Melian* and *Vindorix* on the other. The contest growing warm, to bring them to an accord

accord and not favour the one in disadvantage of the other, *Dorant* past judgement that they were both Men of Honor, and so equal in all qualities requisite to persons of their conditions that there were no praises due to the one which were not also deserved by the other. This determination finishing the difference and the shadows beginning to cover the Earth they retired all into the House and quickly after every one to his Lodging.

The End of the First Book.

The

The Second Book.

NOT a wink of ſleep could *Dorame* get all Night, Diſquieted with the Viſion which ſhe had of a ſhadow every moment, preſenting it ſelf to her; the more ſhe conſidered of which the more ſhe imagined *Alcidor* dead, and the more this indignation prevailed upon her, the more increaſed her inquietudes. Her ſighes reaching the ears of *Oriana* and *Milſinda*, her women, they roſe, lighted Candles, inquired into her new trouble, and finding what ill impreſſion ſhe had conceived, endeavored all that they were able to remove it. But it had taken too deep root to be on a ſudden pulled up; only their remonſtrances and the light of the Candles together in ſome meaſure leſſened the diſturbance that it gave her.

her. Perceiving which, though she remanded them to their Beds, they would not be over-ruled to leave her till it was day and that she had in a good part laid aside her black fancy. The day advancing and she keeping her Bed to redeem the repose of which the displeasures of the night had robbed her, it was not long before a kind sleep lockt up her senses and cares together. Which lasting some hours and then leaving her very well refresht, she was told as soon as she was throughly awake that *Rollman*, *Vindorix* and the others having heard of her ill rest waited to know when they might with her convenience visit her. She thereupon sending them word that she was ready to bid their company welcome, they came all into her Chamber; where after they had heard from her own mouth what disturbance she had had, they jointly made it their business to take her from all melancholick immaginations.

While they were thus employed there was brought into the Chamber *Limonides* who applying himself to *Dorame*, I come, Madam, said he to her, to bring you the tidings of my Masters fate, whom *Alcidor* hath sent to his Grave. *Alcidor* hath killed *Cartagenes*, cryed *Dorame*: See the truth

truth of the Vision which hath so much tormented me. Here is a Letter, Madam, proceeded he, presenting one to her, which will assure you of what I have told you. Having taken and opened it she read in it these words.

Cartagenes *to* Dorame.

I Have reckoned it more just to try the honorable way of a combate with Alcidor *than to withdraw cowardly from your service, and shamefully leave him the Glory of so fair a prize, I have been the aggressor in the quarrell and for my reward have received two wounds which deprive me of my blood and life together. My servant will entertain you with the accident, the litle strength that I have left permitting me to tell you no more but that I dye your servant and that* Alcidor *merits you far better than either* Cloriastes *or* Cartagenes.

Dorame was deeply struck with the misfortune and witnessed by plenty of tears the lively sense which she had of it, together with the good esteem in which she had the unhappy lover. Oh the strange effects of Love, cryed *Rolimon*! *Cartagenes* ingaged

us

us to seek *Dorame* in Marriage for him, and in his soul thought of dying. Pardon me, Sir, said *Limonides* to him, my Master thought of nothing less than fighting when he gave you the pains of comming hither, he had at that time nothing in his mind but his Love; but there afterwards evened other things which begot in him an intention of fighting, that so he might confer and vindicate his honour. But whence, *Limonides*, said *Dorame*, sprung his quarrell with *Alcidor*? That you should know it, Madam, replied *Limonides*, was part of his will before he dyed, of which he appointed me his Executor. Instantly after that my Lords who are here, Your Uncle and Cousins were gone from his House, came in *Almidon* to him, and before me told him so many things to provoke him, that unless he had been altogether stupid or a coward he would by no means have remained without an angry resentment. Among other things he told him, that *Alcidor* having with little paines acquired your favour so as to be declared your servant and owned by you for such, had to your self in the presence of many persons of quallity spoken so disadvantageously and contemptuosly of him that he

he could not believe himself his friend, did he not give him notice of it, and farther with all his power assist him to recover satisfaction of the injury. *Cartagenes* having with impatience enough heard what he said, If you did not assert it, *Alcidor* said he, I should have a great deal of difficulty to believe that *Alcidor* who is esteemed one of the most generous of men would discourse of me to her whom I adore; or indeed to any Body otherwise than he in equity and Candor ought. Hath he besides ever known me tamely pocket up an affront that he should take the confidence to give me so cruel a one? But I have a way to arrest his insolency, and if there be nothing besides the Beauty of *Dorame*, that is enough to make me Valiant, if not invincible. At these words *Almidon* saying that it belonged to him to serve him in revenge of the injury who had informed him of it, *Cartagenes* drew him aside and for some time held a discourse with him, of which I confess I had more than ordinary apprehensions. I knew *Almidon* to be a turbulent and unlucky intermedler, I knew also that he had a design of drawing my Master to the search of his Cousin *Lidia*; I therefore easily believed that he had upon that account brewed this quarrel for him.

Almidon

Albidon gone, *Cartagenes* past the rest of the day in Melancholy. At night when he was going to Bed remembring that I had heard the greatest part of what *Albidon* and he had said to one another, could you have ever thought, said he to me, that *Alcidor* would have thus abused me? I cannot be induced, Sir, returned I to him, to give any credit to what hath been told you, and I wish for your quiet you would not at all regard it. To this he replied nothing but bid me put him to bed, which I did and gave him the good-night. Next morning at point of day he called me to dress him, which done, he took horse (and I with him) to go to see one of his friends. By the way (I know not what ill fortune would have it so) he about the middle of the day took a path which he was never, that I know of, wont to follow. Having followed it some Miles he happened to meet *Alcidor*, whom accosting with a bold roughness, he angrily enough demanded of him the reason why he had spoken so unhandsomly of him to *Durame*, To that, you should learn to know me better, replied *Alcidor*, than to believe that I am of a humor to offend any Person without reason; and the injury that you do me in taking up that ill opinion of me is

greater

greater than that which it ſeems you take for granted I have done you. But beſides this, the Lovely *Dorame* deſerves that we ſhould make one thruſt with our Swords, as I ſee you have a mind we ſhould; and I take mine in my hand, continued he, to let you know that I will have the glory of ſerving her alone, engaged both by what he had ſaid himſelf, and by *Alcidors* words and action my Maſter drew together with him, but wholly to his misfortune. For though he was well mounted and (as is enough known) very ſtout, he quickly recieved two wounds, one of which being in his belly gave him only leaſure to get to a little houſe hard by where they fought, to write the Letter that I have brought you, and juſt as he expired to command me to give you, together with that, an account of his diſaſter. But I muſt not forget, added *Limonides*, the generouſneſs of *Alcidor*, who, when he ſaw his adverſary tumble to the ground at the ſecond thruſt that he gave him, jumpt from his Horſe to his ſuccor. Which he who was fallen ſeeing, and getting up of himſelf, trouble not your ſelf, brave *Alcidor*, ſaid he, to help me; I am mortally wounded, and though with your Sword *Almidon* is the cauſe of it, That

base man shall dye, returned *Alcidor* to him, or I will my self perish by that kind of people who are skilful to make more quarrels than they are able to appease. Believe me, I never spake a word of you that could give you a disgust. I am too certain of your innocence, replied *Cartagenes* to him, to make any further question of it, and let you plainly see the baseness of *Almidon*, *Limonides* shall give you an account of the discourse which he yesterday held to me, in the mean time that we binde up my wounds and I recover strength to carry me to some place where I may dye more conveniently than here. Accordingly while *Alcidor* served my Master for Chyrurgion, I served *Alcidor* for intilligencer. Which done we had only time to conveigh my Master to the neareſt comodious place that we could find, and there as soon as he had written to you he dyed. An adventure Sir, said *Vindorix* to *Floris*, which challenges the tribute of a weeping eye, and I fear, if ill Fortune be not by some means of prevention made to change her course, the same may arrive to *Cloriastes*. To prevent that, returned *Floris* to him, we will make haste to him and perswade him to sit down form his

hope-

hopeleſs ſuite and leave the excellent *Dorame*, to her Gallant *Alcidor*, *Cartagenes* himſelf, when he was dying, voting him the moſt worthy to poſſeſs her.

Dorame was going to ſpeak, when a Lacquey of *Alcidors* was brought into the Chamber and hindred her, preſenting her a Letter which ſhe firſt read privately to herſelf and then aloud to the company in theſe words.

Alcidor *to* Dorame.

I had no deſign when I took leave of you but to accord a difference between two of my Friends; but I have experimented that my ill fortune deſtined me to ſomething elſe. Yeſterday I by chance met with Cartagenes, *who aboarded me with ſo ill a diſcourſe, that my honour obliged me to make him little elſe of anſwer but that of my Sword in my hand. We fought, and though he had more valour than I, he had worſe luck, it was my luck to make him fall. I reckon my fault very great that I have drawn my Sword, and that mortally, againſt one who offered ſervice to you, and whom you juſtly eſteemed. But by that goodneſs that is proper to you, I beſeech you to pardon me, and I hope you will, conſidering among other things that*

without your anger I am sufficiently punisht for what I have done in that I must for a while deprive my self of the happyness of seeing you, not thinking it fit for the present to make you see him who hath killed Cartagenes.

Dorame was troubled as much at this Letter as for the death of *Cartagenes* believing that *Alcidor* would leave of his pretensions of Love to her, out of apprehension of many dangers which he might possibly incurre in prosecuting them. *Vindorix* knowing what pinched her, acquainted as you are with the sentiments of *Alcidor*, said he to her, by the ill judgement which I see you make of him, you unsufferably wrong both his courage and his affection. He is none of those whose souls start back at the noise of leaves, or whose loves are unhinged by their more predominant fears. He is indeed moved when he is prickt in honour and bound to seek satisfaction, but it is not that he dreads a new quarrel or a new combate that he tells you he shall be without seeing you; it is only that he may not appear before you with his hand dy'd, and reeking with the bloud of *Cartagenes*: Write to him to come to you, and you will soon see that he knows how to obey you. If he

stayes

staies not but till he is sent for returned *Dorame*, I shall quickly see him here, for I shall quickly give him the summons of a letter. It is indeed, Couzen, said *Roliman* to her, no more than what is handsom on your part, and deserved on his, and you will (as far as can be seen) derive from it nothing but what is good. I am altogether of that mind, added *Melian* to her, and you will soone be convinced that nothing can defer him from presenting himself to you when he knows you desire it. *Dorame* relishing well the reasons of her Kinsmen and the inforcements of them which were made by *Floris* and *Lucidas*, presently took her Pen and drew these lines.

Dorame *to* Aleidor.

I write not to you to blame you for what you have done, I am sensible of the just occasion which you had of serving your self with your best forces and address to preserve your life against those who would have ravisht it from you: It is only to oblige you to give me your company as soon as you can, your action not being such that it should be punisht with flight or any thing of shame or horror. Cartagenes *himself hath left sufficient testimonies to justifie*

you, and you will believe that I have recieved them, and approved them, when you see that the bearer of this Letter is Limonides *who hath order to seek you through all the World.*

Limonides very gladly taking the charge of carrying this Letter, as that which he said would be a great contentment to him amidst the displeasures which he had for his Masters death, and being gone away with it, *Dorame* who had her mind no more diseased with the frightful fansies of the night, rose from her bed, and sat down with her company to dinner. Risen from Table they went into the Gallery and there sometimes walking, sometimes sitting, spent two or three hours in discoursing about *Alcidor* and *Cartagenes*, about the various traverses and effects of Love, and at last about *Cloriastes*; reviving their apprehensions concerning him, that he might split himself against the same Rock that *Cartagenes* had. After which *Floris* and *Lucidas* considering that it was time he was advised rather to be patient in missing than obstinate in attempting that which it was impossible for him ever to obtain, and which to seek to obtain, would in probability be fatall to his life, and also that they had no more of day left

left than they should need to conveigh them whither they were to go, they took congey of *Dorame* and her relations and went away. Their backs being turned, *Dorame* took her Uncle and Cousins into a private Chamber, and having made them sit down and seated her self, You know, Cousin, said she, directing her speech to *Vindorix*, that the arrival of *Floris* and *Lucidas* hindred you yesterday from carrying on the story of *Alcidor* in that part of it where without your help it will remain defective, and that other impediments also have fallen in to day: But now we are at leasure to enjoy this divertisement; I intreate you therefore to favour us with it. I am ready, Madame, replyed *Vindorix*, to obey you, and after a little pause began thus.

Alcidor having receaved the desires of *Lucimon* and *Lisantus* to put himself into Paquin, the friendship which he and I had contracted, suffered us not to part, and, though I was alltogether unworthy of that respect, he would not enter the citty without my company. The day of our entrance the five hundred horse which he brought with him, and his presence together raysing and fortifying the fallen courages of those whom the conscience of their crimes had filld with the

apprehenſions of puniſhment, we were wellcomed with ſo much honour, he for his part that *Lucimon* and *Liſantus* could not have receaved more, and I, for my part, that I never the like. The Magiſtrates and Grandees giving him this reception in the palace of *Floriſa*, whom her Uncle *Lucimon* had left in Paquin after the death of her Father *Oraſtes*, the remarkes which ſhe ſhewed of kindeneſſe toward him were ſuch, that together with me, many others that were there tooke notice that ſhe was never accuſtomed to afford the like to any. He againe applyed himſelfe to her in ſuch a faſhion, that the Muſes ſeemed to ſit upon his lippes and the Graces upon all his parts: and not content by that meanes to draw her reſpects to himſelfe he ſpake to her of me ſo much to my advantage that ſhe ſpent complements upon me which I very well knew I had nothing that encouraged me to owne as my due, and with which I found myſelfe more put to a ſtand than ever in my life beſides.

The Governour and other Officers having intruſted us with the cheiſe commands of the Towne, wee without any ſupineneſſe uſed them to the utmoſt of our power in giving neceſſary orders for defending it, and that late enough; for within foure dayes after

after the passages were all seized by the King, the outworkes attaqued and the seige formed. We lay not still in this occasion, *Alcidor* had more gallantry and his Troopes more ambition of fighting, we made a salley, and in that first essay of our armes brought backe advantages over our beseigers which caused fires of joy to be lighted through all the City. Not satisfied with the triumph unless she saw him who had procured it, *Floriſa* sent for *Alcidor* to come to her, and it was then that going along with him to her I percieved by her eyes, words and whole carriage not onely that his valour kept her from shaking under the feares which she had of falling into the hands of her fathers enemies but also that his person was a great deal more than indifferent to her. When wee were going from her, you have not onely Paquin to preserve, *Alcidor*, said she to him, you have also an unfortunate princesse under your guard, take heed therefore how you hazard your life since it is my support. In reply to this, I therefore make Esteem of Paquin, Madam, said *Alcidor*, because it holds so rich a treasure as the princesse *Floriſa*. Knowing indeed whence and what you are I should goe against my Conscience, should I not set an higher value upon you than

than upon what I hold deareſt to me in the world. Whatſoever conſiderations therefore I can have, the ambition which I have of ſerving you will be ſure to ſurmount them all, & it will I hope not onely ſupply me with boldneſs of heart but with prudence alſo to manage it. This reply mooving ſo violently her inmoſt veines, that there roſe a ſudden crimſon from them and ſpred it ſelfe over her face; ſhe left us with out ſaying any more but that ſhe would have us ſee her often. And in this wee obeyed her command; for whatſoever imployments we had to remedy the diſturbances which the enemy procured us, we forbore not to viſit her twice every day, and after a while whither ſhe deſir'd him ſo to doe or that it came of his owne motion *Aleidor* tooke up a cuſtome of going frequently to her without me. But on the other ſide whatſoever intreaties ſhe uſed to him, and ſhe uſed, beſides that mentioned before, very many and earneſt ones not to throw himſelfe into danger, he forbore not frequently to ingage himſelfe in the midſt of the enemy, doing things which made every body have him in their mouths for a kinde of miracle.

If we were active, our beſeigers were not idle, making atempts which for ſome time kept

kept us day and night at worke. From which having one afternoone a little releaſe I made uſe of it to goe viſit *Alcidor*: but coming to his lodging. I found that he was gone to doe the ſame to *Floriſa*. I nevertheleſſe went into his chamber, where finding a booke upon his table I opened it, and turning over the firſt leafe of it I ſaw a letter drop, which, out of a curioſity to know more of my friends particularities than I believed he had imparted to me, taking up and unfolding I read in it theſe words.

Floriſa to Alcidor.

IF you have but a little conſideration of the paine that I endure becauſe I ſee you not ſo often as I wiſh, I perſwade my ſelve you will come to ſee me aſſoone as you have read this letter wherein I deſire it. You too well know your owne merit and the influence which it hath upon me to make any queſtion of the advantage which I derive from your converſe. Make haſt therefore to me and involve not your ſelfe ſo much in the troubles of war as not by intermiſſion to come and ſweeten thoſe of Floriſa.

The fortune which I ſaw by this letter was arrived to *Alcidor* ſurprized me with a guſt that was very acceptable to me, but not without

without an allay when I considerd that he might not draw all that satisfaction from the affections of so high a person which he might from those of a meaner. The letter for feare that if I left it, where I found it, it might bee found by some other as it had been by me, or else might bee wholly lost I carried with me to my lodgings; where assoone as I was entred *Alcidor* coming to seek me, all his discourse to me was of *Florisa* and particularly of the visit which he came from making to her, and in his discourses he could not with all his arts so well dissemble but that he often changed colour, and discovered by many testimonyes that another God besides *Mars* had made him his votary; but yet he tooke not any notice to me of the princesse's writing to him, nor did I therefore to him that I knew any thing of it. I on the contrary industriously abstained from speaking anything of her to him at all, much more of her merite. But the more I shunned that theam, the more he prest it. To see therefore whither his passion would carry him I made it my buisines to dissent from what he said, which he tooke so ill, that to heare him chide me would have disposed one to judge that I had committed some grosse enormity.

Here *Dorame* interposing, it is not a little dis-

displeasure, said she, which a Lover receaves when one aproves not the prayses which he bestowes upon her whom he loves. I told you what designe I had in doing so, resumed *Vindorix*. and therefore I was not at all stirred with what *Alcidor*, said to me, and I afterwards changing my stile spake so much good of the Princess that he quickly changed his also and gave me better words than he ever before had done. I then againe introduced another subject, which was that of warre, but it was easy for me to perceave that those words of Canon, powder musket, pike, sounded not so well in his eares as those of Love, of *Floriſa*, and of her graces.

After we had thus entertained our selves a while at my chamber he carried me to his, When a little after we were entered taking up the booke in which I had found the letter, he turned over the leaves, ran into his closet, left no place unsearched, no servant unquestioned for what he mist. I asking him what it was that he inquired for, he told me that it was a paper of great importance to him. Farther I prest him, not for feare of being suspected of taking away that of which the absence put him into so great pain; But when I saw him by degrees calme himselfe and his spirit grow to some stillness, I secretly so

that

that he not at all perceaved me, put the letter under the tapestry of his table where he had not yet searched, and then as if by chance threw downe one of the sides of the tapestry so that it let the letter dropp. Having with joy snatched it up, see that, said he to me, in which lies comprehended all my estate of happinesse. What so important treasure can it conceale, returned I to him, that should make you speake so highly of it? Nor Riches nor honours, *Vindorix*, said he againe, doe at all content us if our friends are ignorant that we possess them. Was I monarch of the world, I should not be satisfied if *Vindorix* had not knowledge of my scepter. I asking him than if something new had happened to him which lay hid from me. Reade this letter, my deare companion, said he to me and you will know what a liberall benefactress Fortune hath beene to me with which words, he putting it into my hand, I tooke it and after some ceremony that I used to it read aloud what I had more than once read to my selfe.

At these words, industrious cheater that you are said *Dorame* to *Vindorix*, had *Aleidor* knowne your fraudulent subtleties your close correspondencies would have beene in danger to have been turned into an irreconci-

cifeable discord. Why returned *Vindorix* to her, did I doe any thing in this which can be accounted a breach of freindship or which the best freind in the world would not have done? For all my talking, said *Dorane* to him againe, I really blame you not at all; but I pray goe on with your relation. To goe on with it, resumed *Vindorix*, *Alcidor* after I had read the letter told me that he had things to recount to me which I could not heav without surprize, and presently used this discourse to me.

It is a strange power that of love, which we in vain inforce our selves to resist. Who would have ever thought that I who perpetually made a mocke of love, should come to be shut up in this beseiged City to be made subject to that which I made a mocke of? I thought of vanquishing, and I am vanquisht; I aimed at triumphing over brigades of Hostile men, and I am overcome by a maide a friend. You, divine *Florisa*, have inslaved me to your lawes, but by a force the sweetest in the world as well as the most compulsive. You cannot but remember, my *Vindorix*, the day, the houre, the moment that we had first the blisse of wayting upon her; say truly, have you ever met with a face more beautifull, a proportion more exact,

exact, a ſpirit more fine, a port more graceſull? I know not how ſhe appeared to your eyes, but in mine ſhe had altogether as much beauty and Majeſty (be it ſpoken without injury to her virtue) as ever the poets attributed to the Miſtreſſe of the God of warre. Interpoſing here, having then and ſince, ſaid I, with a curious eye conſiderd the qualityes wherwith heaven hath furniſht her, I cannot ſay that ſhe hath parallel. This is, rejoined *Alcidor*, to judge of things as they deſerve, and ſince to you I neither ought to diſſemble nor will, I acknowledge that from the firſt moment wherein I ſaw this unparalleld woman, I conceaved a paſſion for her; all the time that we were then with her, I thought of nothing but of her, I ſcarce conſiderd that I was in Paquin to defend it, and had my ſelfe alſo to take care of. When we were parted I ſet my ſelfe ſeriouſly to ſtudy both of her perfection, and my owne change which ſprang from them, and I ſtrongly endeavoured to beate out the power which I found had ſurprized my heart, but I was forced to leave my ſelfe to be vanquiſht by that which I plainely ſaw I was not able to fight with.

The Princeſs you know, added he, from the good ſucceſs which we had of our ſwords

when

when our beſeigers firſt approached the City, drawing an occaſion of ſending for us to give us the congratulations which ſhe thought fit, it was from that time that I knew that ſhe tooke a more than a common if not a very affectionate intereſt in me. One muſt indeed have been blinde, interrupted I him, or elſe wholly deprived of judgment not to draw that concluſion from all her deport towards you, particularly what other interpretation than that could be made of thoſe words which ſhe uſed to you at parting, you have not onely Paquin to preſerve but alſo an unhappy Princeſs to guard; take heed therefore how you hazard your life leaſt by looſing that you doe injury to mine by deſpoiling it of its ſupport.

After this, went he on, I many times viſited her without your knowledge, and as many times received teſtimonies of her kinde inclinations towards me. One time among the reſt ſhe was pleaſed in plaine tearmes to tell me that my perſon and humor were very agreeable to her, and that ſhe made more account of me than of all men in the world together; and I let not the opportunity ſlip by without improoving it, but tooke courage from what ſhe ſaid to declare to her in the moſt reſpectfull phraſe

that I could invent, that I had dedicated my
selfe entirely to her as to the most absolute
peice of divinity among mortalls. In answer
to which, you doe not at all disoblige me,
Alcidor, said she, in letting me know that you
have an affection for me: Love me as much
as you are deare to me, and I aske no more to
be the most contented woman that lives.
Impregnated with joy to heare her say so,
The Goodness, Madam, replyed I to her,
which you are pleased to testifie towards
me fills me with an inebriating glory, ban-
krupts my gratitude, and leaves me nothing
to doe in the world but by your premission
to be all my life in the quality of your slave,
paying as much as I can of what I owe to
your birth merite and bounty. Her Gentle-
woman coming in, as I said so, I held my
tongue and laid a restraint upon my carriage;
seeing which, have no reserve, *Alcidor*,
said she to me, because of *Leonora*, for shé
knowes all my secrecies; from the moment
that I loved your vertue, I made her ac-
quainted with it, and she instead of diffua-
ding me from it, represented many things
to me on your side, which served to make me
more highly esteeme you. Hearing this, I
must be stupified, Madame, returned I to
her, not to thinke that I have an obligation

to

to her which is not easily discharged, and I should deserve nothing but ill offices from her instead of good ones, should I not seek occasion of thanking her. With wich words pulling a diamond from my finger I intreated her to wear it as pledge that I was sensible of the favours which she had done me, and she by the princesse's command accepted it.

After this, Love, instead of abating my courage raised it, and beleiving it my duty to performe something answerable to the elevation of my affections and to the honour that the princess deigned me, I often with you, *Vindorix*, you know, sought occasions of remarkable actions, and one day especially having no more eyes than love that conducted me, I blindely precipitated myselfe into dangers, out of which had not you drawne me, I cannot see but that I had in all probability perisht. Returning victorious to the City, the paines which we had taken in the fight requiring that we should a little rest our selves, we as you may remember left one another to go to our several lodgings. Come to mine, it was not many moments that I had shut my selfe into my closet and laid me downe upon my couch, not so much to repose my selfe as to thinke of *Florisa*, when one of her pages brought me this letter from her.

Floriſa to Alcidor.

I Have heard ſuch great things of the enterpriſe that you come from making upon our enemyes, and of the ſucceſs that you have gained over them, that the affection which I bear you carries me to rejoyce at them. But there is nevertheleſs that which troubles me extremely, it is a continuall feare that you ſhould fall a victime on the feild of battell, or at leaſt receive ſome horrid wound. what ill offices does your valour render me? Reſtraine, I conjure you, this heate of fighting, reſt your ſelfe from your labours, and ſend me word how you doe, and if your health is in that condition that I wiſh it, come to ſee me to morrow morning.

In anſwer to theſe lines I drew and ſent theſe that follow.

Alcidor to the Princeſs Floriſa.

Madam,

YOu make me bluſh with the Eulogies that you give me and with the care that you take of me. I am altogether undeſerving of them: but the imployment in which I am, ſuffers me not to bee leſs active than I am, and if I have made ſally without your command, it is becauſe the good of the publicke required it. Excuſe

cuſe the affection that I beare it, ſince it does not in the leaſt diminiſh that which I have for the moſt deſerving Princeſs that the ſun beholds. For my health I never felt myſelfe better, and ſhall not faile to waite upon you at the time that you appoint to render you an account of my actions.

Going the next morning and ſurprizing her in bed with *Leonora* entertaining her, after ſhe had made me take a ſeate by her bedsſide and given me her hand, which without conſidering that it was too much for me to attempt, I kiſt when I tooke it, I at her command gave her a relation of the ſalley which we the day before had made. While we were talking about which, her hands playing with my locks, her boſome by ſtealth diſcovered it ſelfe with beauties which I greedily fed upon with my eyes, but of which I durſt not owne the reliſh which I had in my mind. The reſpect indeed which I had for her put a ſtrict bridle upon all my carriage towards her: which ſhe obſerving, as if on purpoſe to make me uſe more familiarity with her, ſhe uſed more than formerly with me. I tooke the overture and imprinted an hundred hot kiſſes on her hand; which ſhe allowing I ventured the ſame to her face and met with

no repulse. Our caresses thus rising by degrees but no higher than was fitting, they were ready to melt away my soule with delight, when a stop was put to them by the coming in of the Governor of the Town. Hee held discourses to her about her Uncle *Lucimon*, and they were of such concernement as required her to write to him. Which being done, and the Governor gone, she told me she would rise. I withdrew therefore into the antichamber, where meeting with her Gentleman, I, while she was dressing, entertained myselfe with him, and learnt a great many things of him; particularly whatsoever craft he used to hide it, I observed that he had a designe of discovering whether or no the Princess loved me. To make me disclose he told me that never had she esteemed any man so much as me, and that she had allwayes my name and actions in her mouth. To this I answerd, that it was proper to those that were great to speake well of those that were mean, to the end to make their own vertue shine more clearely, and to shew by commending those that have little merite that they know how to give true and just prayses to them who deserve them, and that if she at all considerd me I well knew it was only

only because she was so good as to thinke that I might possibly bee helpfull to the defence of the City. *Placidas* not finding my discourse suitable to his expectation, turned his tongue to other subjects; but I insensibly grew upon him and at last brought him to advertise me that *Lucimon* had by a letter which he had lately written to him, given him charge watchfully to observe all the actions of his neice, and withall to shew me the letter; reading which I saw that the visits which I made to *Florisa* were knowne to that prince and suspected by him. Having thus learnt of him what it was, very conducible to my advantage to know, I with the best arguments that I could use perswaded him to be faithfull to his princess and to informe her of whatsoever he should know was practised to her detriment: particularly I advised him to give her notice presently of that which her Uncle had wrote to him, but without signifying to her that I knew any thing of it, adding that I should so well manage the tenure of my cariage for the future that *Lucimon* should finde nothing in it to censure.

According to my advise as soone as *Placidas* knew that he might enter the princesse's Chamber he went to her and gave her the

ſame intelligence that he had given me. Upon which ſending him immediately for me, ſcarce was I within her Chamber dore but ſhe told me before him what he had told her, not without diſcovering an extreame diſcompoſure, and ſaying all that could bee ſaid againſt a man, againſt *Lucimon*. After ſhe had by words and teares diſharged ſome of her vexation, I, with the reſpect that was due to her and with the beſt motives that I could thinke of, intreated her not to be troubled at the buſineſs, adjoining that rather than ſhe ſhould by occaſion of me receive any thing of diſpleaſure, if my being deprived of her ſight would remedye it, though it would be a greater punihment to me than I knew how to live under, I would without diſputing it baniſh my ſelfe from her preſence. Hearing me ſay ſo, I am ſo far, *Alcidor*, reparted ſhe to me, from having a minde that you ſhould abſent yourſelfe from me becauſe of *Lucimon*, that I would have you doe me the kindneſs of viſiting me oftener then heretofore, that being ſo ill treated by an uncle I may amidſt my unhappineſſe have the conſolation of being ſuccoured by one who hath no tie upon him to doe it. Could it not ſuffice him to have ſhut me up in this miſerable City

which

which two potent Princes have for the object of their indignation, and which could not keep it selfe from falling under their power, if your valour and conduct forbad it not, without going about to double my imprisonment by restraining me from seeing those who can give my spirit some relaxation? what strange Barbarousnes is this and how little used by an Uncle to a neice? Does he feare that I have a minde to take from him the pretensions which he makes to the kingdom and to place the crowne upon *Alcidor's* head, that he would not have him come neare me? He is indeed abundantly worthy of a scepter, but both his intentions and mine are juster and more moderate than to aspire to any such thing, was it, as it is not, in our power to attaine it. No, No *Alcidor*, added she to me, you must not forsake me, it would be too much cruelty in you to abandon a Princes that breathes not, but by your assistance, and expects not her deliverance but by your meanes. In response to this I said all to her that love and duty could suggest to me, to demonstrate to her my zeale of living and dying for her. All which, both what she said and I, *Placidas* hearing, and not being able to hear without being certaine that there was a more than ordi-

ordinary kindeneſs between us; he humbly offered her to ſerve her to the utmoſt of his capacity againſt her Uncle; and being thereupon commanded by her to eſteem me as one to whom ſhe had great obligations, he intreated me to beleive that I was Maſter of his heart and that he would never have any other inclinations than to doe me all the good offices that he could. After which he and *Leonora* leaving us together, we conferred a while about *Lucimon*; thence we proceeded to teſtifie our affections to one another, I with the beſt language that I could put together, and ſhe with as many favours as her vertue and modeſty would allow her to beſtow upon me. She withall enjoined me not to ſpeak a ſyllable of our correſpondencies to any body; no, not to *Victorix*, ſaid ſhe, for he is too much affected with glory to like that you ſhould ingage your ſelfe in love at a time ſo proper for Armes. This is the ſole reaſon why I have till now concealed from you my love and the good fortune that I have had in it; You therefore ought not to take it ill from me, eſpecially conſidering that *Floriſa* hath no ſooner given me liberty of acquainting you with the ſecret (for it was but this afternoone that ſhe gave it me) but I have made

uſe

use of it to let you see that I have nothing of concerne which I am willing to reserve from your knowledge. To this I answered that I lookt upon the injunction which the Princess had laid upon him, not as an effect of her ill will to me, but as a fruite of her prudence which obliged her to distrust all the world in an affaire of so much consequence, that I should have thought it very ill done of him if he had not obeyed it, and that I had a better sense of the favour that she had done me in giving him leave to impart so much to me as he now had done, than ever to imploy it otherwise than to both their advantages.

I having said so, since that time, went he on, I have very often been with her without any body having cognisance of it but *Placidas* and *Leonora*, and I was never with her but she gave me demonstrations of her affection towards me, which as they bred in me a rich delight, were enough also to have begot in me a most fond vaine-glory, if by a sober reflection upon my selfe I had not been throughly acquainted with my unworthiness of them. That you may see, how far I am in her esteeme, added he, stepping to a little boxe of pearl taking a paper out of it and bringing it to

me,

me, read these few lines. Doing as he desired me, I found they held such sense as this.

Though possibly there bee few pretensions of marriage so exalted, which my birth would not authorize me to make, the worth which continually represents it selfe to me in you hath so much of magneticke influence upon me that my heart cannot keep it selfe from being drawne and tied fast to you and that I cannot forbeare telling you so. And this you shall never faile of knowing, so long as you render your selfe capable of doing so. But make no ill judgment of my freenesse, for my virtue is no otherwise interested by my affection than it ought to be, and as it is most true that I love you, so is it also that I love you in such a manner as chastity and sageness allow, and that I looke you should continue in the tearmes of respect that are due to me.

When I had done reading these words, not to detaine you any longer with this concerne, adjoined *Alcidor*, I am at present mounted to the highest step of happiness that a vertuous love without marriage is able to bring me to, and, if I may say so with-

without imputation of arrogance, I have reason to thinke that I may be to morrow the husband of *Floriſa*, if I will. She every day indeed preſſes me to be ſo, and though I upon a manifold conſideration beleive that I ſhall never have her for my wife I have promiſed to make her ſo as ſoon as the ſeige is raiſed, and in the meane time to prepare my ſelfe for it by gaining as large a ſtock of honour as I can.

He thus concluding his diſcourſe to me, I told him that he had certainly done very well in ſatisfying the princeſs with thoſe aſſurances that ſhe deſired, and that I made no great queſtion but the terme which he had taken for marrying her would produce ſuch a revolution of affaires as would ſet him at liberty to doe in that affaire according as he ſhould ſee cauſe. Then, not thinking it fitting to counſell a man whom his diſcretion made him act well in every thing, I onely let him know how deeply I accounted my ſelfe in his debt, for communicating to me the particularities of his affections, and preſently we parted.

Having ſuch within our walls as practiſed for *Poliamis* and carried on conſpiracies of moment enough to have quickly deſtroyed

us

as if we had not happily smelt them out and provided against them; we were eight dayes in remedying this defeate which done we made our beseigers see that we had not lay still but to take breath that we might fall upon them with the more life, cutting our way up to their trenches, putting them into a great disorder and bringing backe a great number of prisoners.

There was againe nothing worth mentioning attempted on our side till one day *Alcidor* without me, whither I was otherwise buried or that he had some other reason not to take me along with him, issued out of the Town accompanied onely with ten volunteers that put themselves under his conduct. They were presently set upon by twice as many and were at length constrained to give way to their strength and retire. But before *Alcidor* made his owne retreat, he by amuzing the enemy gave his party leasure to make theirs. Upon which occasion staying a little too long behind, after he had maintained fight as long as he was able, to put himselfe out of the danger that he was in, he leaped his horse over a great ditch; Thereupon one of those whom he had to deale with vainely enough upbraided him that he had the advantage of making him

fly.

fly. To him the advantage is, returned the other, that you are so many; were you a little fewer you should quickly see me come backe to you. It shall be your fault if you come not, said the other againe, for I promise you, you shall have to doe with none but me: try the adventure and you shall see I will attend you as it is honour becomes *Lisimax*. Hearing him say so, *Alcidor* was about to jumpe backe to him, but he at the instant perceived about halfe a score horsemen galloping to intercept his way; he therefore set spurs to his horse and retired.

Got into the Town he came and recounted to me what had befallen him: he told me withall that *Lisimax* being the favourite of *Florimen* and of an applauded name, and there, therefore being a great measure of glory to be gotten by a single combate with him, he resolved to demand it of him. The reasons which he alleadged for his resolution inducing me to approve it, after I had intreated him to let me be his second but could not obtaine it of him, we concluded that it was necessary for him to have the consent of the Princess and of the Counsell of warr in the business; and we went first to the Princess, to whom he declaring that his

honour

honour put him upon a duell with *Lisimax*; she before me could not forbear having her selfe extremely troubled at it, and endeavoured all that she was able to turne him from it. But when she saw she could not pervail with him, Goe then, said she to him, and fight this Giant, and heaven reserve for you the victory. From her we went to the Governour, at whose house the cheif officers being convened, *Alcidor* propounded to them what he desired and without difficulty procured their leave to doe as he thought good. From them I waited upon him home; by the way whither, The King, said he to me, believes *Lisimax* invincible, and so doe others also; if therefore I overcome him I shall acquire a glory which will not quickly dye: but if my ill fortune on the other side will have him triumph over me, this satisfaction I may pretend to, that I am vanquisht by one of the bravest Cavaleirs of our age. It is almost impossible that you should not conquer him, replyed I to him, so much advantaged as you are. Was there indeed nothing but the favour of *Florisa* that is enough to make you irresistable, and I make no doubt but the prayers which she sends up for you will be heared and draw down upon you the blessing of heaven.

We

We were in theſe tearms when we came to his lodgings; where he making me ſtay and ſup with him, during ſupper I againe ſet upon him with the beſt rhetorike that I had to perſuade him to make me of his party; but all to no effect. Riſen from table we went into his cloſet, where he giving me a book to reade, I had not peruſed many lines, before he had drawn theſe and came and ſhewed them me.

Alcidor *to* Liſimax.

YOu may well remember what yeſterday paſt betweene us; and you live in a higher reputation than to beleive any thing meane of yourſelfe. If therefore you can get leave of the King as I have done of thoſe upon whom I depend, it ſhall lye upon you if I come not to day to fight you at the head of your army. You are a better man at armes than to refuſe to fight with Lance and Sword; with theſe I ſhall waite upon you if I ſhall finde your reſolution ſuch as I deſire it. I ſhall expect it with impatience, yet am better aſcertained of your valour than to beleive that you will ſhun the occaſion of making it appeare.

Having conſidered theſe words I aſſured him who askt my judgment of them that

the moderation and civility of them was such as could not be bettered, and as his enemy could not but commend. Satisfied with which approbation he resolved to think of no other language but to send it the next morning as it was. I could scarce sleep all the night, I was so restless to see again the day and *Alcidor*; going to him assoon as I could get up after it was light, I found him risen and upon the point of sending his chalenge. It was carried by a Herauld with ceremony enough, and it was receaved by *Lisimax* with as much Candor, who after he had been with the King sent back this answer.

Lisimax *to* Alcidor.

I Honour your valour more than not to consent to the design which it hath of trying mine. We will fight therefore to morrow at sun rise in the presence of both armyes, since you desire it, and I have my Kings permission to doe it, and our armes shall be the the same that you have prescribed. Thinke to defend your selfe well, for I have a strong desire to attaque you well; the glory will remain with the conquerour.

The Herauld bringing backe this answer, together with on assignement of the place

where

where the two champions ſhould act their parts and the two armyes ſtand ſpectators, not without an aſſurance from the King, that there ſhould on his ſide be no act of hoſtility committed till all were returned to their former quarters, he having pledged the ſame in our name to the King, *Alcidor* had apparent in his face the characters of a gallant exultancy of ſpirit; the cheifs applyed themſelves to take care about the marching forth of the army the next morning, and the Princeſs had a hundred times in an hour day and night by turnes in her breaſt, what with her hopes, what with her feares. But he who gave her the occaſion of thoſe viciſſitudes, ſpending all his time with her, brought her before he left her to a more ſettled temper, and at parting received of her together with her good wiſhes a very rich ſcarf, imbroiderd with her name.

The next morning in a ſuperb array marched the army out of *Paquin* to the place appointed, where the other alſo failed not of rendring it ſelfe, *Floriſa* ſeated her ſelfe in an eminent place where ſhe might ſee the combate and be able by her regards to animate *Alcidor*. All things in ſhort were ready, and preſently appeared the two competitors of honour. Before they came

to their ſtations the King gave *Liſimax* his ſword and repreſented to him that he had an enemy who was both excellently skilfull ad valiant. The Princeſs wiſht that ſhe had had the liberty of doing ſome ſuch thing for *Alcidor*, but ſhe could doe no more than ſend him ſecretly by *Placidas* a braceler of her hair. After this, and that I had put myſelf in the head of the cavalry of which *Alcidor* was commander, with reſolution either to dye or vanquiſh in caſe there ſhould be any treachery (though this as it afterwards appeared needed not, there being nothing attempted againſt the publike faith) *Liſimax* and *Alcidor* choſe their judges, took their places and the trumpets ſounding ran againſt one another with a ſwiftneſs like that of a furious wind. Their ſucceſs was very different; for *Alcidor* receiving the lance of *Liſimax* in the bow of his ſaddle ſo that it flew in peices, he with his owne lance peirced his horſes ſhoulder and belly, with his ſword cut in pieces his bridle, and diſarmed him. Having thus almoſt in a minute diſpatched the fight, not without all the feilds and City ringing with the ſhouts of our army and people that were upon the walls, he ſent the ſword which he took from his adverſary to the King

who

who had given it him, and presently both the armyes retired, theirs to their ordinary posts, and ours into the Towne. Never man of *Alcidors* condition received more honour in a day than he did in this, by the order of the magistrates bonfires for some hours together lightened, and Canons thundred in all parts of the City; no peice of triumph was omitted that uses to accompany famous victories; the Grandees gave him complements, and all sorts of people acclamations, which declared them most pathetically transported with what he had done, and the replyes which he made to them augmented their transports with their elegancy and Generosity. But all the rest was cheap to the price of those congratulations which he received from the Princess; they were as expressive of joy in her selfe and of honour to him as her exuberant ingeny prompted with her vehement affection could dictate to her; and he in answer to them attributed all his happiness to the prayers which she had sent to heaven for him; and to the other favours that she had conferred upon him, and that with a rhetoricke, modesty, gallantry and respectfullness which gave her new occasions of extolling and caressing him.

This action of *Alcidor* coming to the knowledge of *Lusimon* and *Lisantus* was very differently received by them. *Lucimon* fearing it would prevail with his neice to consider him yet more advantageously than she did, vext him selfe at it with a most disingenuous cancetous malice, and speaking of it upon all occasions most detractingly himselfe; caused others also to spread reports of it altogether contrary to truth: but it shon with a more triumphant splendor than to be so obscured. *Lisantus* on the other side was himselfe continually where ever he came discoursing of it as of that which he could not encomiaze enough, and set his friends on worke also to proclaim to the world its grandeur. What is it more, said he often, to have gained all than to have vanquisht *Lisimax* the most daringly active man of his party.

But while *Alcidor* had good success in the particular undertakings of his sword, as also in his loves (for he and *Florisa* in despight of *Lucimons* malignant intentions continued to live in their accustomed intelligences. *Plucidas* who had received his commands to destroy them (favouring them as much as he could), the general concernement of the seige went on very ill on our side; the royall

forces

forces continually increast by fresh supplyes, ours consumed a pace by sickness and sallyes, and we were at length brought to such a pass, that what because we were for the most part beaten, what to preserve our remaines wee durst not stir out of the inclosure of our bullwarkes. Scarcity of victualls also grew upon us so that the people who had before only groaned privately under their sufferings without daring to complain publickely, now mutinied for bread and rifled severall houses of the most noted Burgesses. To lay this dangerous disturbance the Governor and those others in power at whose nodds the large but rascall body of the multitude was wont to move, fed them with hopes of great things which *Alcidor* and I understood not. Among other things they told them that if they would have but a little patience, they should quickly see themselves delivered from the seige and all their other miseries together, and that there was but a moment almost to wait for that fortunat event which would render them completely happy. Presently after when *Alcidor* and I thought of nothing but the meanes of resisting those that begirt us and dayly grew upon us, we at counsell of war to our grand astonishment had

newes brought us that the King was killed with the ſtab of a knife. Struck with horrour at this blacke paricide, we had it redoubled at the exceſſes of joy with which we ſaw firſt the aſſembly of Officers reſent it, then moſt of the inhabitants of *Paquin* and ſtrangers that defended it, reputing it a miracle which the powers above had wrought for their ſakes. But as well workt tempers are never friends to baſeneſs, the Princeſs in our preſence regretted this tragicke fall of the ſupreme father of her countrey with as ſerious teares as ſhe had done that of her own father.

In ſequel of this moſt proditorious aſſaſinate *Lucimon*, who had alone as much pleaſure in his ſoul at it as had all the whole rebellion together, not daring to ſtep the next way into the throne himſelfe, though profoundly deſigning to doe it in effect, gave the title of King to Prince *Dolimbus* who was priſoner; and, *Polianis* drawing of his forces from the ſeige of *Paquin* to carry on expeditions neceſſary to his regall intereſts, thither he came, and conveighed away his neice thence, ſhutting up in priſon *Placidas*, whom he ſuſpected of being a freind to her intimacies with *Alcidor*, and ſuffering only *Leonora* to continue

ſtill

ſtill in her ſervice. Where he placed her *Alcidor* was not able to finde out; exaſperated at which and at his ill uſage of her upon his account, he had taken a ſevere revenge upon him for it, had he not been hindred by the high authority that guarded him: he was how ſoever about to forſake his party when *Liſantus* came to him and refixt him to it by conjurations too ſtrong to be broken through. *Alcidor* being pervailed with to ſticke cloſe to the ſide of that illuſtrious man, I reſolved to run the ſame courſe with him, they both ſtrictly enough obliging me to it. But as if good fortune had a mind that I ſhould withdraw from that pernicious revolt which I had too long aſſiſted, I was by a dangerous ſickneſs which I fell into conſtrained to quit both *Liſantus* and *Alcidor*, and retire home, where I continued a long time ill. This, cozin, ended *Vindorix*, bowing to *Dorame*, is all that I am able to tell you of the adventures of your lover more particularly than can my Lord our Uncle; I ſhall therefore here leave off to give him way to accompliſh the relation of them.

At theſe concluding words of *Vindorix* *Rolimon* preparing himſelfe to carry on what he had begun, *Dorame* motion'd, conſidering they

they had been a great while shut up in a chamber, to defer a little the prosecution of the narrative and goe take the aire: that which the company approving, after a collation brought in and ended they walkt abroad. But before they had spent halfe an houre in their walk there fell a great rain which forced them to take covert, and there they continued in various converse till they were called to supper. Supper done they at *Dorane*'s request returned to the place where *Vindorix* had performed his part of the story, and there *Rolimon* having seated himself with the others by him, went on with his part to this effect.

Polianis justly irritated by the murder committed on the sacred person of his sovereigne and brother-in-law *Florimen* decreed to take revenge of it or to perish in seeking it. Being also the next man of his line, he resolved to succeed him in the throne or to be laid with him in the dust in attempting it. Carried by the interest of which determinations from the seige of *Paquin* into the Province of *Xanton* and being, to stop his progress, followed thither by *Lucimon*, he marched up to him, defeated his army and drove him to seek his safety in a dishonorable flight. Pursuing his victory

thorp he drew up again to *Paquin*, took the ſuburbs, gained other conqueſts and advantages, and compelled *Lucimon* to run before him as if he carried lightning in his hand to chaſtiſe him. In none of theſe unfortunat proceedings was *Alcidor*, for though *Lucimon* earneſtly endeavoured to have him with him, whither the more eaſily to deſtroy him or the better to have an eye upon his actions, he would never march under his conduct, but gave himſelfe wholly to *Liſantus* who being ingaged in as weighty imployments as any other of his party had himſelfe a particular army under him. But the notable ſucceſſes of *Polianis* cauſing *Lucimon*, *Liſantus* and all the other captaines of the league to make one body of their forces, and the conſideration of their numbers in which they far exceeded *Polianis*, rayſing their courages, which the abundance of blood ſpilt in the laſt celebrated battel had drawn low, and carrying them to venture another feild with him; it was in that memorable day that *Alcidor* practiſed all the offenſive and defenſive gallantries of war, that he flew among the rankes, overturning them, ſlaughtering them, breaking them in peices like a ſwiftwinged thunder, that he carried victory whither ſoever he carried his

his sword. He indeed performed so much both of the commander and souldior that those against whom he performed it with a generall consent cried out, At the blue scarfe, (It was *Florisa*'s kindeness which dresst him with that remark), on his being overcom depends our conquest; and accordingly all that had courage exercised it against him; *Polianis* in particular discharged pistolls with him and laboured all that he could to make him his prisoner, but he was bravely succoured by *Lisantus*. In short, I have heard a Cavaleir of his troop say, who was in this occasion mained for the rest of his life, that with some volunteers who accompanied him into the hottest of the fight he kept the fortune of the day a great while in ballance. But having had two brothers who fought by his side and did, like him, things worthy of most lasting monument for the uncommoness of them, killed by it (the one of them carried his bowells a long time in his hand, the other when he was dropping from his horse turned upon the enemy that he might die facing them) and being set upon on all sides, he was at length filled with wounds which caused him to be carried out of the battell. His ill fortune was the whole armies of which

he

he was, their efforts, as if they could not fight without him, languiſht as ſoon as he was gone, and there being no body that fought with the aire of *Alcidor* but the redoubtable *Liſantus*, *Polianis* every where traverſt the phalanxes and battalions with a force which quickly compelled thoſe againſt whom he imployed it to put their noſe in the earth with a rout and loſs the moſt notorious that they ever before receaved.

While *Alcidor* kept his bed of his wounds ſome of his neighbours who were his enemies having knowledge that he was unable to ſtir, and that his brothers were ſlain, brought to one of his houſes, lying a dayes journey from *Paquin*, *Indians* that ſet fire to it and burnt it. This malicious act not having the power to trouble his great minde ſo much but that within a few weekes he was got perfectly well, as ſoon as he was ſo, he watch fully obſerved the marches of thoſe that had done it and within a few dayes met with them as he deſired. Having a troop of ſelect men with him he fell upon them with a violence by which they who were acquainted with the blowes of *Liſantus* and *Alcidor* might eaſily have gueſt him to be one of them, againſt which notwithſtanding, thinking of nothing leſs than thoſe

two

two renowned warriors, and only imagining that they had to doe with a troop who had met them by chance they at first made a resistance stout enough; but he lifting up his visour and naming himselfe to them, they immediately betook themselves to flight as their best defence. They fled some one wayes some another with all the speed that a guilty conscience and a feare of punishment could give them: but he, from whom they fled, and his company pursued them every way with such a swift and well managed fury that they had in a moment or two got them into their power. Which done, could you think, you barbarous people, cried he to them, that heaven would leave unpunished the outrage that you have done me? or could you beileve that I was so void of a soul as not to be sensible of it, or such a coward as not to seek you out? saying so, he ordered a dozen of them to be bound to trees, and causing fire and straw to be brought represented to them the just reason that he had to burn them in requitall of their burning of his house. There being not one of them that did not sentence himselfe as sufficiently deserving this punishment, they perpared themselves to die: but when they were surrendring themselves

to

to the flames, I contene myſelfe, ſaid he to them, cauſing them to be releaſed and cutting ſome of their hands himſelfe, to have made you affraid and given you to ſee that it is in my hands to deprive you of life; live and learne henceforward to doe well; I give you your liberty to goe whither you have a mind. Treated thus by him whom they had uſed moſt unworthily they expreſt to him a repentance of their offence which baniſht all ill remembrance of it out of his mind, they adored him as one of more than humane goodneſs and ſuperſtitiouſly enough to have raiſed temples and altars to him if they had judged he would have liked it, they went home with reſolutions never to give blow againſt the party of which he was, and after they had been a little time there came and preſented to him in reparation of the dammage that he had ſuſtained by their meanes a conſiderable ſum of money: but he would by no meanes be brought to receive it, telling them that that which he valued was their freindſhip and not their coine. It is true though he refuſed their ſilver, he could not but accept of other preſents which they urged upon him of horſes and armes.

After this rendring himſelfe with *Liſantus* who

who from the ſcatterings of the laſt feild had gathered together a conſiderable body both of horſe and foot, and ſeeking occaſions of keeping his ſword in exerciſe; he one day going abroad with only fifty Gentlemen met two companies of Carabins of fourſcore men apeice. At ſight of whom examining the courage of thoſe that were with and finding it ſuch as he deſired, he ranged them in two ſquadrons and having orderd them to follow him ſlowly and when he gave the ſignall to come up and charge, one the one company and the other the other, rode a little on before them. The enemy ſeeing him, very advantageouſly horſt as he was, come ſtraight up to them upon a ſmall gallop, all at once made their ſalute to him; and in return to it he and his followers were in an inſtant upon them, gave them a volley of ſhot with which many of them tumbled, and falling in amidſt the confuſion with an impetuoſity which is not to be expreſt, quickly laid a great number of them more upon the ground, and forced the reſt, to yeild themſelves priſoners part of them, part of them to fly.

Polianis in the interim, not blinding himſelfe with his proſperities, but preciſely obſerving the motions of his enemies and managing

ging his affaires according to the best maxi-
mes and rules of prudence, when having
endeavourted to concile his people to his go-
vernement by sweetnes, he saw himselfe
forced by their obstinacy to use steele and
blood, he laid seige anew to *Paquin*, not
without the inhabitants rising in his cause,
nor without their being stilled and drawne
back from him by the Governor and Magi-
strates. For the better defence of it *Lucia-
man* would have had *Alcidor* put himself
again into it; but *Floriſa* was not there to
oblige him to doe so, and he had been too ill
used by that prince to observe his desire. He
kept in the feild, where making continuall
courses to and fro, he molested the Kings
forces more than any of his party. In par-
ticular having gotten certain intelligence
that at such a time there would be a broad
an important convoy of the enemy consisting
of three hundred horse and as many Fantas-
sins, and which way they would pass, he
put himselfe with two hundred horse in am-
buscade in a wood, and there attending till
they came, when he saw his time charged
the Cavalry with a fury which they were
not able to resist but were routed, cut in
peices and taken: the Fantassins in the
mean time saving themselves by help of

the wood, but leaving what they were conveighing to the disposall of the conqueror. Among those that were taken were *Melampus* and *Corilet*, Lords whom *Alcidor* knew and who were returning from the Kings army upon the account of ill health. To them he restored their liberty and caused all their equipage also to be returned, for which they have ever since been of the number of the best friends that he hath had in the world. A great man who observed him after the fight leaning against a tree with his armes shining with silver, with his sword in his hand bloody up to the hilt and with the visour of his cask put up and discovering his face hath severall times since said, that he could not imagine a more gracefull sight than he then appeared to him, or a more perfect resemblance of Mars taking breath after a conquest. At this defeat of his men the King was very much troubled, but being of a disposition that carried him to commend brave actions he highly extolled this of *Alcidor* and named him one of the most gallant men of his side.

The miseries of *Paquin* being at length by the pressures of the seige grown to incredible extremities, all things seemed inclined to put it into the hands of *Portanis*, and its

grand, officers urged by the mutinous and mournfull cryes of all sorts of people and by their own necessities, were treating with him about a speedy surrender when they were incouraged so stand out a while longer by intelligence which they had brought them that *Ostravius* was coming apace with a potent army to releive them; And they were not disappointed, for within a few dayes the King drew of all his forces to go offer that famed Captaine battel; but he would not be drawn to venture such a dangerous cast, thinking it enough to succour the cheif Town, and take some others and retire; Nor was *Polianis* able either to force him to doe the on, or to hinder him from doing the other. Seeing which he fell to work with severall small Towns and took them, and some of great consequence: he made preparations also for invironing *Xanton*; which when *Ostravius* and *Lucimon* could no longer doubt of, they commended that Rivall of *Paquin* to the tuition of *Lisantus* and *Alcidor*; *Lisantus* in quality of Governor and *Alcidor* as his assistant, and they discharged their trust with stupendious performances; whatsoever honour put them upon they failed not of under-

taking and whatsoever they undertook they failed not of having crowned with honour: they by a salley which they made forced the army that begirt them to withdraw to a good distance from the walls; and though they were afterwards brought into great straights for want of victualls they notwithstanding held it undauntedly out till the aforesaid princes came and compelled the King to rise from before them and leave them at liberty.

A while after the King, being infinitely troubled that he could see no good end in the prospect which lay before him of his people's obstinacies and miseries, to undeceive if possible those who had left themselves to be abused by the specious pretexts that were set up against him, and by that meanes stifle that hidra of the rebellion whose heads recruited as fast as he lopt them of, publisht a declaration which served very happily for a foundation of that obedience which many of his subjects that were in arms against him were preparing for him in their minds. It particularly put *Lisanius* and *Alcidor* upon considering and weighing of things which they had before very little or not at all thought of. But being the principall springs by which the

Union

Union moved, they thought it not noble to leave in the lurch those that depended upon them, and who could not long subsist but would be utterly undone without them. They therefore kept on their way with their wonted vigor, but *Alcidor* not with his wonted success. Whither Fortune had a mind to cast a blot amidst his glories that so he might not boast he had impeded her from her changeableness of motion, or whither heaven thought fit to animadvert upon him for using his sword against his rightfull soveraignes *Florimen* and *Polianis* by a cross adventure which should take it out of his hand, he happened to be encountred by a force which gave him the hottest work that he had ever had experience of. They were many of them that were met Commanders of known courage and address, there was no body who did not choose rather to die than flie; it is impossible as I have heard him say ever to see weightier blowes and more manfull attaques and resistances than were than to be seen, and if one party was ready to be Victor one moment the other releived it selfe and was ready to give the law the next. But in the end *Alcidor* having done all that man could doe, he had his horse killed under him and was himselfe

overthrown upon the ground with him; in which posture being summoned to yield he had nothing to answer, but that the case in which he was constrained him so to doe. Being demanded his name, considering that he had too many enemies in the Kings army he judged it prudent to conceal it and called himself *Betompus*.

At this Period *Rolimon* addressing himself to his neice, These, cozen, said he, are the most remarkable adventures which I have any intimacy with of your new lover, and judge if I have not spoken well of him in favour of whose rivall I came to wait upon you. There are some things in the world, Sir, replied *Dorame* to him, of which one cannot hold one's peace, and the passages of *Alcidor*'s life being of this kind, it is truth and justice which have compelled you to say what you have said. But I cannot yet be contented unless I hear what became of *Florisa* and whither *Alcidor* saw her not during the time of his activity abroad. You cannot know this so well of any body as of *Alcidor* himself, said *Vindovix* to her, but was he here the question is whither you have the power

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to obtaine the certain of him. The question is rather, said *Melian*, whether he hath the power of refusing her any thing, and certainly when he shall know that we have in his absence entertained our selves with what we know of his concernments he will not refuse to entertain us himself with what we know not of them. However since we have no more to relate of him, returned *Kindarix*, I pray us by my consent take our way to bed, and stay no longer with my cozen, to whom dayes, nights, ages would be no more than moments if one should all the while hold her with discourses concerning him. You speake, Cozen, returned *Dorame* to him, as if you was little skilled in obliging women, or else as if you had more sharpeness for me than if I had no relation to you. But possibly I shall not be so unhappy as not to finde an opportunity of revenging myself upon you. I make no question, said he again to her, but I shall have patience enough to bear whatsoever ill offices you shall have a mind to doe me, assuring myself that they will not be overgreat because I am *Alcidor*'s freind. To this *Dorame* going about to repart, I see, said *Rolimon*, it is

necessary that I should break off this contest which will otherwise not at all regard how late the hours grow or know when to make an end; and therewith rose from his seat; which the rest doing after his example, they bad good night and went to bed.

The End of the second Book.

The

The Third Book.

THe next morning *Doraste* rising early enough to make her guests see that it was not lasiness which had kept her so long in bed the day before, as soon as she was dress't, she went to take her Uncle *Rolimon* in his chamber; but she found that he was together with *Vindorix* and *Melian* gon to walk in the garden. She going thither to them, I hope, my neice, began *Rolimon* to her, the same phantasmes have not troubled you this night that did the former. I can never sleep with more tranquillity, answered she to him, than I have don to night, and if any thing came in my mind when I was awake more than ordinary it was only what you have recounted to me of *Alcidor*, and some feares I must confess least

least by the way hither he should be met by some friends of *Cartagenes* and called to an account for his death. Disturb not your mind with those suspicions, replyed *Rolimon* to her; for he hath in this province a more redoubted name than that any body should quickly be as rash as was *Cartagenes* to commit the like indiscretion of assaulting him. Have you then so ill an opinion of the courage of *Clariates*, said *Doryane* to him smiling, as to believe that he will not fight upon my account? I hold him for a man of heart, returned *Rolimon* to her, but since he knowes not that *Alcidor* is your Lover, would you have me imagin that there will be a combat between two persons who have nothing of quarrell. Let us not amuze ourselves in prognosticating a mischief of which there is no probability that it should quickly, if at all, fall out, but let us think of seeing *Alcidor* here at dinner; for my part I have strong hopes that we shall, for I am sure there is nothing of expedition which he will not use when he knowes that you desire to see him. The night had not shades so thick as to hinder him from travailing, and besides when he undertakes any thing, he makes his way through all, nor woodes,

woods, nor rocks nor pitchy darkeneſſes are unpaſſable to him. I have practiſed him enough to know him, and I ſpeak no more than what I know to be true of him.

To this *Dorame* was going to ſay ſomething, when they ſaw enter the coverd walk where they ſat *Limonides* with a look though not ſo overcaſt as when he brought the newes of the death of *Cartagenes*, yet very legibly inſcribed with ſomething of ſadneſs. As ſoon as he came near them, have you ſome new unhappineſs, prevented him *Rolimon*, to informe us of that you carry ſo melancholick a face? Have your pains been unprofitable in ſeeking *Alcidor*? or have you met with him, and ſome ill hath befallen him? *Almidon*, Sir, replyed *Limonides* to him, hath followed *Cartagenes*; *Alcidor* hath made him pay at the point of the ſword for the outrage that he did him in reporting what was falſe of him to *Cartagenes*. What fighting is here, cryed *Dorame* ſighing? This is not the way to let us quickly ſee *Alcidor* as we expected. This will not all retard his coming, Madam, ſaid *Limonides* to her, you will ſee him with you within an hour. You tell me what will be enough to my contentment *Limonides*, ſaid ſhe in anſwer to him,

him, provided it proves true. There is nothing in the world more true, Madam, returned *Limonides* to her, than that he intends it. I shal make no more question of it, replied *Dorame* to him, but tell us what you know of his fighting with *Almidon*. Being conducted, Madam, said *Limonides*, by *Alcidors* lacquey to the house of *Meonmus* (a freind of his) which is not far distant from that, which was my Masters while he lived, nor from that also of *Almidon*, I there found him and delivered to him your Letter; which when he had read he told me there was no cure that I could have brought him like that for the greif with which he resented my Masters death. Saying little else but that little, enough to make me perceive that he had some business which he was in hast to dispatch with somebody, he jumpt on horseback and galloped away. To see whither he went I followed him with as much speed as I could without being perceived by him; but I was not able for some time to set eye upon him. At length I discerned him above a hundred paces from me with his sword in his hand against a man whom at that distance I know not. Riding as hard as I could to the place I had scarce discoverd his

his adverſary to be *Almidon*, but I ſaw him run into the body by him and fall. When *Alcidor* ſaw me by them, confeſs before *Limonides*, *Almidon*, ſaid he, the wrong that you have don me in reporting to his Maſter thoſe things that were the occaſion of his death. I can by no meanes excuſe, returned *Almidon* to him, what you charge me with, and therefore if I may ſay that I forgive what is juſt, I forgive you the wound which you have given me, and which is apace letting out my ſoule. At theſe words *Alcidor* dropping ſome teares upon his misfortune as he had don upon my Maſters, ſtopt his wound with his handkercheif, ſet him upon his horſe and conveighed him to the houſe from which we came. There we ſaid, as *Almidon* deſired us to ſay, and ſaid himſelfe that an enemy who had met him by chance had given him his hurt, and the Maſter of the houſe endeavouring to inform himſelf of the name of that enemy he would never tell him, but deſired him to content himſelf with this that he was a gallant man who had juſt occaſion to ſet upon him, and that he died ſatisfied with him, not knowing how to complain of his action which he was free and valiant. He ſaid but little more and died

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in the armes of *Alcidor*, who, his eyes being closed, commanded me back to you with assurance that as soon as he had taken order to have him caried home, he would come away by the light of the moon to render himself with you.

Limonides having said thus and holding his tongue, It is indeed *Alcidors* happiness, said *Dorame*, that those whom he fights with and kills die his freinds, but I am, notwithstanding, that very much troubled at these occurrences. That, said *Rolimon*, is the part of honest persons that come to be so unfortunat, and these incounters indeed, said *Vindorix*, though they are to be accounted good in regard that *Alcidor* hath had the better in them, yet they are not so in regard that two men, and one of them a man of true gallantry, have in a privat quarrell lost their lifes by his hand. But we shall have the less reason to be troubled provided *Cloriastes* increases not the number of those unfortunats: and we have reason to hope that he will not, because at present he does not think that he hath any occasion of falling out with *Alcidor*, and if he should think so hereafter, he must also think that to fight with him is not but to augment his trophes. For, one to have

two

two such combats one upon the heels of another said *Melian*, and in both to kill his adversaries without being at the cost of a drop of blood, does not usually happen; but it is to *Alcidor* that it hath happened, and that hinders it from being a wonder. A great reason of his good success, said *Dorame*, surely is because he drew not his sword but upon a just cause; for who can deny but he had right on his side in both these duells, in the one as being assaulted, in the other as being outraged. No man, Cozen, said *Rolimon* to her, can with justice condemn him for what he hath don and if any man should have either so much malice or so little judgment as to speak ill of him for it, he would finde enough ready to revenge it upon him. But let us withdraw hence to wait for him in the house, as shady as this place is the rayes of the sun peircing it, and beginning to set it on fire.

Removed into the house, they for some time held conversation upon severall worthy things which *Cartageves* had done, and then *Dorame* turned it to *Floriſa* and *Alcidor*, speaking very much in commendation of the former for regarding the merit rather than the birth of the latter, though reserving the

the quality of Prince, she knew he was issued of one of the best families of the kingdom and of him they were speaking when he came into the room where they were. At the sight of one another he and *Dorame* were struck into a little stupor, which being quickly dissipated and salutations performed, you have since you left us, Sir, said she to him, been to us the cause and the object of more than ordinary apprehensions; my Uncle and Cozens who came hither two dayes since have been both witnesses and partners of them; but was there a necessity that you should abuse us by making shadow to us of going to agree some freinds and engaging yourself in mortall quarrells? I hope, Madam, interrupted her *Alcidor*, *Limonides* hath not done me the ill office to conceal what past between his Master and me? He hath given us a full account of it, Sir, said *Rolimon* to him, but my neice taking a particular interest in your preservation, therefore sets thus upon you, that she may persuade you not to be another time so ready to satisfie the resentments of men void of reason. What could I do less, replied *Alcidor*, than use my sword against a man who forced me so to defend me honor and my life. I am cer-

certainely no quarreller, much leſs am I of a humor to fall foul upon thoſe whom I do not beleeve to have a deſign of offending me, but that it ſhould be ſaid that out of cowardiſe I diſengaged myſelf from a provocation, or that any body ſhould ſet upon me without my giving them to ſee, as far as I am able, that I am not inſenſible, I can by no meanes bring myſelf to endure. You gave ſufficient demonſtration of this to *Liſimax*, ſaid *Dorame* to him, and thereby acquired a far more triumphing reputation than that any body ſhould be eaſily diſpoſed to paſs ſentence upon you as puſillanimous. I ſee you know, Madam, returned *Alcidor* to her, what in reſpect of its inconſiderableneſs I had reaſon to think lay private from you; but that is too ſmall a thing to procure me credit with any body, much leſs can it bring me into eſteem with you to whom thoſe things are common which to others are rare. Not to diſſemble what we have done, Sir, ſaid *Rolimon* to him, *Vindorix* and I to divert my neice have imparted to her the knowledge which we have of your life, which reaches, you know, to the time that you was taken priſoner, excepting what became of *Floriſa* and what intercourſe you maintained with her, after her

Uncle removed her from *Paquin*. I am sorry, replied *Alcidor*, that she hath had no better a diversion, the occurrences of War usually making horror rather than harmony to those of her sexe and temper. Notwithstanding my weaker sexe, reparted *Darame*, I am not of so weake a temper, as to be frighted with the bruite of things; on the contrary they have been very melodious aires to me, both those of your martiall deeds and those of your amorous intelligences whith the princess *Florisa*. In the remainder of which latter I beseech you to instruct me, after you have recounted to us, that which I also begge of you, how things went between you and *Almidon*. But yet before you doe this I will shew you what *Cartagenes* wrot to me dying. With those words she took out of her pocket and presented to him the letter of that defunct, which he having read. How few such men, said he, are there to be found in the world, and how much regret have I that such a man should fall by my sword, though withall by his own fault. But let us leave him in peace Madam, continued he, and suffer me to tell you that you use me with too much ceremony to intreat of me what it is your part to command. Had you as much favor

vor for me as I have honor and obedience for you, you would only ſay, *Alcidor*, it is my will you ſhould do thus and thus; this freeneſs would make me do what you deſire with greater cheerfullneſs. But you beleive you ſhould render me too happy ſhould you treat me ſo. You have no reaſon ſurely to complain, anſwered ſhe to him, if I pay you the reſpect which I know to be due to you: looſe no more time therefore in producing to us theſe punctilio's of your ſpirit, we being better aſſured of its excellency than to need ſuch teſtimonies of it, but relate to us the adventure, which you have had with *Almidon*. Not to tell you again what you have been told allready, Madam, ſaid *Alcidor* to her, be pleaſed to take this breviate of the reſt.

After I was informed by *Cartagenes* and *Limonides*, how *Almidon* had calumniated me to the former, and by ſo doing been the author of his misfortune (over which I could not chooſe but weep) I had no longer any thing beſides my love of your ſelf ſo buſy in my minde as revenge; but I was a while unreſolved of what means I ſhould ſerve myſelf in proſecution of it; ſometimes I thought of acting one way, ſometimes another: I was indeed moſt inclined

to go find him myſelf in his houſe, and draw him into the feild, there to demand an account of him for what he had done; but I was withall miſerably agitated with fears of incurring your diſpleaſure by ſo doing, and of acquiring the tittle of a gladiator more than of your ſervant. I had agreed thoſe upon whoſe occaſion I went hence with the ſucceſs that I deſired, and there was nothing but my love that ſtood in the way of my anger. But when I conſidered that you was of a more generous humor than to take it ill that I ſhould ſeek ſatisfaction for the wrong that was done to me and for the miſcheife that was done to *Cartagenes*, I wavered no longer but leaving that dying man in the armes and to the care of *Limonides*, I betook myſelf to the houſe of *Meonimus* from which that of *Almidon* was not far diſtant. Where having ſtaid ſome hours to repoſe my ſelfe and write that letter to you which you was pleaſed moſt obligingly to anſwer, I got again on horſebacke, and leaving behinde me my freind's houſe was quickly at that of my enemie. I found him at home, was receaved by him better than I deſired, and ſoon underſtood from him that he knew nothing of the death of *Cartagenes* (for I reckoned him

him to be by that time no more among the living) and that he beleived I knew nothing of the reports which he had made to him concerning me. Hiding therefore my resentments from him, after I had ſtaid with him neer an houre, and refuſed the invitations of eating which he very civilly preſt me with, I acted ſo that I engaged him to ride out with me. When we were come far enough from his houſe, in the midſt of a wood, whither I ſerved myſelf of the occaſion of a great roade to bring us, taking him by the hand and obliging him to make a halt as I did, *Almidon*, ſaid I to him, I know not where to find a place more proper to require an account of the injury that you have done me than this. Amaz'd at which words without giving me leaſure to proceed, what is it, *Alcidor*, ſaid he, which moves you thus to ſurprize me? I never had a minde ſaid I to him again, to ſurprize any man unhandſomely; but knowing that you have not freeneſs enough to ſatisfie willingly thoſe whom you have wronged, I have choſe to draw you clancularly hither that ſo you might not be able to find any way of eſcaping or giving yourſelf a diſpenſation from fighting. But tell me then, returned he to me, what the injury is which

you accuſe me of having done you, and for which you thus ſet upon me. Do you not remember, replied I to him, or can you deny that you not long ſince ſpoke of me to *Cartagenes* otherwiſe than was true and honeſt? who, anſwered he, hath told you that I did? *Cartagenes* himſelf, reparted I. He hath indeed allwayes told me, returned he, that he would ingage me in a quarrell with ſomebody, and I have now too much experience of it to queſtion that he was in earneſt. But I will maintain to him that he lyes and that I never ſpoke of you but as I ought. At thoſe words provokt with his baſeneſs in denying what I was ſure he was guilty of, and laying the blame upon one of whoſe innocence I had ſufficient proofe, I took my ſword in my hand againſt him; but he made no offer of putting himſelf in a poſture of defence. Seeing which, are you ſo great a coward, cried I to him, as not only to unſay what you have broached, but alſo to refuſe fighting with one who defies you to it and will kill you if you do not reſiſt him? But theſe reproaches ſtirred him not and I was unwilling to ſtrike a man who would not defend himſelf. To try therefore if I could beget a courage in him, and withall the better to convict him, I repeated to him

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the words which he had ſaid to *Cartageres*. Struck with which and his owne conſcience together he ſat on his horſe like a ſtatue as if he had had nothing of ſenſe or motion left him. At length recovering ſpirit, *Cartageres*, ſaid he, hath been moſt diſingenuouſly unjuſt to fixe upon me what I never thought of, and I ſhall act powerfully enough againſt him to let you quickly ſee his artifice and baſeneſs, and that I am no ſuch baſe or cowardly perſon as you accuſe me to bee. *Cartageres* no longer lives, cried I to him, this ſword which I hold in my hand to puniſh you hath forced him to make a voyage into another world for having too lightly given credit to your diſcourſes. That unhappy Cavaleir was as valiant to attacque me as you are heartleſs to defend yourſelf; but the equity of my cauſe ſurmounted the injuſtice of his, and you, Impoſtor ſhall, if I can make you, run the ſame adventure, expiating your crime with your blood. Take your ſword therefore in your hand or I will run you through. But theſe words warned him no more than the former, and could he have fled I dare confidently ſay he would not have ſtaied long in the place. In fine, when after I had with a great deal of patience waited upon him he ſaw I would wait

no longer but was reſolved to uſe him enough to his ignominy unleſs he would ſtand upon his guard, he told me that his ſword was not equall to mine, as indeed it was not, being as bad a one as I have commonly ſeen, and that if I would ſtay till the next morning he would render himſelf where I ſhould appoint to give me the ſatisfaction that I deſired. As commonly they who have an ill paymaſter their debtor are content to be paid with ſuch money as they can receive, I conſented to his procraſtination and we concluded upon a place and hour where and when to meet the following day. Which being come, about halfe an houre before *Limondes* came to me, I ſaw enter the houſe of *Meonimus* one whom though diſguiſed I knew to be *Almidons* lacquey. The faſhion in which I ſaw him, and the manner in which he inquired for *Meonimus*, whom I had ſent from home in the morning upon other buſineſs, that ſo I might have leaſure to perform that which I had in hand with *Almidon*, made me ſuſpect that his Maſter was brewing ſomething of treachery. To aſcertain myſelf of the truth of it, and know what this diſguiſe meant, I took the lacquey by the collar, and ſhewing my ſelf moſt violently angry threatned him to make him hang

hang if he would not quickly tell me why he was metamorphoſt, and fot what reaſon he came into the houſe covertly and like a theife. Preſently the poor boy who had his ſenſes frozen with feare confeſt to me that his Maſter had given him a ſumme of money to advertiſe *Meonimus* ſecretly of the Duel which he was to perform with me, and to feigne that it was his owne proper motion to give him the advertiſement. Inquiring then of the lacquey where his Maſter was, and hearing that he was gone to the place aſſigned for our meeting I thought of nothing any more but to make haſte to him. But *Limonides* arrived at the inſtant with your moſt wellcome letter, and I ſtaid to read it twice over and to ſpeak a few words to him that brought it. Which done to come upon *Almid*[illegible] unawares, I galloped to him by a private way. Perceiving him wholly aſtoniſht to ſee me inſtead of *Meonimus* whom he expected, I gave him leaſure to recollect himſelf, and then I with much difficulty made him draw his ſword; But he uſed it ſo ill that I with little difficulty gave him a wound which let out the beſt part of his blood upon the place. The reſt *Limonides* I ſuppoſe hath acquainted you with, I ſhall therefore only add that I have not with-

without a very great displeasure to me been compelled in this fashion to make good my honor against a gallant man and a cowardly. He having said so, the action of the former of them, said *Dorame*, does indeed afford a subject of praise, that of the latter carries infamy in its remembrance. Nothing is more certain, adjoined *Vindorix*, than that a mans good or bad reputation depends for the most part upon his actions. Some more words they had upon this occasion and *Alcidor* fell into particularities with *Dorame*; in which the other company being about to leave them, the table presently shewed it self coverd and called them all to take their seates.

As soon as they had dined *Dorame* carrying them into a private room requested *Alcidor* to make the recital that he had promised of the remainder of his loves, and he obeyed her in a discourse to this effect.

Vindorix knows the trouble which the absence of *Florisa* gave me, to which was added that which I had to see him fall sick and constrained to leave me. The imprisonment also of *Placidas*, which I knew he sufferd for favouring of me, I had such a sense of that had I known where *Lucimon* had shut him up I should either have drawn him thence

thence or loſt myſelf in undertaking it. I had I am ſure too much cauſe to complain of that prince to ſerve him in his army. I therefore put my ſelf in that of *Liſantus*, and there I paſt ſome time without learning any news of the princeſs though I had continually ſpies about *Lucimon* to diſcover in what place of the earth he kept her. By this my cares of Love appearing without hopes of proſperity, and the War every moment furniſhing me with new means of laying both them and the melancholy which they cauſed to me aſleep, I began after ſome months to think no otherwiſe of the Princeſs than as of one who was wholly loſt to me. Among theſe thoughts an expedition carrying us towards the province of *Sancy*, the ſecond day after our arrivall in thoſe quarters I ſaw come into my chamber one, whom though diſguiſed, I preſently knew to be *Alexis* page to *Floriſa*, and who gave me a letter the contents whereof I ſtill remember were theſe.

Floriſa *to* Alcidor.

AT laſt in deſpight of Lucimon and his tyranny I have the means to informe you of the torments that I undergo. I am more reſtrained than ſlaves and more rigorouſly uſed than cri-

Criminalls. Excepting this Page *and* Leonora *I have no body about me whose fidelity is not corrupted. Judge then if I am not to complain and if my afflictions ought not to touch you. But I shall be in a great measure happy amidst my unhappinesses if I can but be assured that you still love me. I no sooner knew of the approach of* Lisantus *towards this Towne of* Sanchio *but I imagined that you was with him and have therefore sent* Alexis *to you to let you know that my greatest fear is that of not seeing you. Send me word how you do and whither the courage of* Alcidor *can suffer that* Florisa *should live allways miserable.*

Seriously affected with these lines when I considerd that a page had had the faithfullness, wit and courage to deceive the Princess's guards, I could not but reckon myself obliged to practise all possible means of seeing her. Sending therefore *Alexis* before to advertise her that I would be suddenly at her feet, but that she and *Leonora* must dissemble their knowledge of me, with a select Troop whom I durst trust and whom, in that confidence which I had in them, I instructed to call me by another name, I took the way withall she speed that I could after him. Coming to the place about, twilight I askt to

speak

ſpeak with *Doliban* the Captaine that guarded the princeſs; who preſently appearing I told him that *Liſantus* having received adviſe of a deſign that was on foot of taking away the Princeſs, had ſent me to impede the execution of it. Taking what I told him for certain, he received me with a great deal of freeneſs, ſhewed me what ſouldiers he had and what order he obſerved for preſerving his fair charge and deſired me to do what I judged in the preſent occaſion fitting. Accordingly to confirm him in his beleife of what I had affirmed, I appointed ſentinells to be ſet at all the avenues of the place, and concerned my ſelf to ſee that and ſeverall other things done with as much zeal as if I had really been affraid of the rape that I pretended, and with as much diligence as if I expected it would have been preſently attempted. All this while I diſcoverd nothing to him of the deſire that I had to ſee the Princeſs, but as ſoon as we had ſettled things for her ſafety, he of his own accord offerd me to conduct me to her, I took the offer and went along with him like one ſufficiently diſintereſted, and ſhe received me as coldly. When *Doliban* indeed with longer eulogies of me than either ſhe or I at that time cared for, told her what rank I held

held with *Lisantus* and upon what errand I was come from him, she payd me those respects which in common manners were due, but yet she in every thing acted her part so sagely that one would have firmely beleived she had not had the least acquaintance with me. *Leonora* also gave authority to the dissimulation by the curiosity which she shewed in inquiring after my name and severall other things about me. But *Dolibon* being after a while called away, we quickly changed the fashion of your converse. We recounted, she to me the severities which her Uncle *Lucimon* had exercised upon her since he had removed her from *Paquin*, I to her the pains that I had taken to learn her abode, both I to her and she to me how bitter our forcible separation had been to us, and how sweet our present stoln interview was; we deliberated of the means of keeping *Dolibon* blind and of seeing one another for the future; we discourst of all that we could think of past, present and to come that concerned either our good or our ill, we determined that for prevention of discovery and to keep of suspicion it was necessary that as I had come after the sun was gone down so I should be gone before it was gotten up: In breife the most of the lea-

leasure that we had we spent in reciprocating testimonies of affection to one another the most emphaticall that her vertue and my respectfullness could allow us. But this kept us not from being so wary that when *Doliban* returned to me, he found me examining whither all things were in good order at the inlets. In which work he bearing me company, I took occasion to remonstrate to him that it was necessary the plot should be kept secret from every body and particularly from *Lucimon* for fear it should alarum him so as to disturb him in the great affairs which he had upon his hands. It is sufficient, added I, that the enemie's design is known to *Lisantus*, your self and me, our forces and cares being of validity enough to ruine it; only let it be your business to watch solicitously for the security and advantage of your charge, and it shall be mine to give as I am obliged a very fair character of you to him that sent me. To this *Doliban* shaped a reply full of honesty and civility, and carried me backe to the Princess; who signifying some apprehensions of the danger that she was in we assured her that provided they in the Town had, as there was no reason to question but they had, resolution and fidelity answerable to their duty, she was

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as safe where she was as she could be any where else of the Kingdome. I had by this time not above halfe an houre to stay, and *Doliban* as opportunely as if on purpose receding, we improoved it as we were taught by our Master Love. He reentring when we were drawing to a conclusion my tongue insensibly slided to commend her to his tuition and to take my leave of them both. Returned to the Campe I found that *Lisantus* had sent all about in search of me; presenting my self therefore to him though he with a strict curiosity examined where I had been, I deceived him as well as I had done *Doliban*, disguising things so to him that he had not the least suspicion of the truth.

By such means during a month that we staied in the province of *Saucy* I seaven or eight times stole the sight and company of *Florisa*; after which the motions of the War carrying us else whither we bad one another adieu with tears on her part which she told me sprang from strong apprehensions that she should never see me again, and with protestations on my part that how remote soever the Countrey was whither I went I would not with the blessing of Heaven be long before I visited her. But *Polianis* never suffering us to rest, but continually

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shewing himself either at our heels or *Lucimon's*, so that all the diligence that we could use was too little to protect ourselves against him, I was much longer than I expected before I could make good my word. He indeed by the victories which he obtained over us weakened us so much that I had more reason to consider how to prevent the ruine of myself and my party than how to carry on my loves with *Florisa*. Not to rehearse any of the traverses of the War (for with them I suppose you are allready acquainted) every moment that I would have gone to find the Princess, new imployments were laid in my way by *Lisantus* whom I accounted my self bound in honour to observe. But I was nothwithstanding all obstructions contriving at length how to make an escape for a few dayes from the Campe, when *Alexis* presented himself again to me together with this letter.

Flotisa *to* Alcidor.

How respectfully soever Doliban *treates me I am continually rackt with an impatient longing either to see you or heare from you. I should indeed be in hazard of dying with malancholy, was it not for* Leonora *who makes*

it her worke to comfort me, and particularly endeavours to perswade me that the important affaires in which you are ingaged allow you not the time that you desire to satisfie my will. Howsoever it is that you are imployed, for love of me preserve your life, remembring that you ought to act the Captain and not the common Souldier, and either come to me or write the cause which hinders you from coming.

Incited by this language and my own inclinations I was never at rest till I had procured liberty of *Lisantus* to be a few dayes absent, nor till I was gotten with *Alexis* to her who had sent him to me. She declared herselfe as glad to see me as at other times, yet withall a little dissatisfied with me because I had staid so long away from her. But with the remonstrances which I made to her I so perfectly composed her spirit and set all so well in tune that our converse all the while I staid after consisted of no other notes but what were purely harmonious, and that when I told her the houres called me away she tooke it not at all ill, but freely dismist me. We thus from time to time saw one another by the politickes which we used keeping *Dolikan* from perceiving and *Lucimon* from learning any thing of our intelligence

gence, and consequently having the former allwayes disposed to please us.

But I could not content my self with this, unless I saw *Placidas* at liberty, whom I should have been very ungratefull should I not have remembred of my self, and whom the Princess and *Leonora* putting me also in mind of informed me of the place where he was kept prisoner. In recompense therefore of the good services which he had done his Princess and the good offices which he done me, I procured his prison to be forced and his imprisonment to be put an end to, an exploit of which I should have been quickly suspected the authour by *Lucimon*, had I not imploied in it such in whom I knew I might trust, given them order to name themselves of the roiall party, and managed the whole business with a suitable disguise. The newes of it flying as fast to *Lucimon* as *Placidas* did to me, he was vext at it to a tempestous rage, and conceived such feares of seeing as much befall his neice that he immediately removed her from the place where she was. Whither he removed her I was not able by all the means that I could use to discover; but at length *Alexis* came to me with word from her that she was at *Suchieu* and that *Doliban*

was no more with her but another Captain who allowed her not so much liberty as he had done. Not being allwayes able to find a stratageme favourable to my desire of visiting her, I sent this letter by him to her.

Alcidor *to* Florisa.

YOur sufferings have not a sharper influence upon yourself than upon me. But a great and incomparable Princes as you are knowes how to overcome her afflictions with her constancy. Nor may you beleive that Alcidor *will be deprived of the glory of seeing you any longer than is necessary for procuring an expedient of effecting it; and my love is more powerfull than not ere long to procure one in despight of the new tyrant that watches you.*

Two dayes after I had sent away *Alexis*, *Lisantus* having advertisement that the inhabitants of *Suchieu* were fallen into mutinies, to remedy the disorder thought fit that I should make a voiage thither. Having by which means in a short time obtained an opportunity which I might have a long time been seeking by art, I was quickly on horseback, and quickly at my journie's end. All tu-

tumults ceasing at my arrivall. After I had reseated things in their former constitutions, I enquired of the officers of the Town what condition the Princess was in and what order was observed in guarding her, and they not only informed me in what I askt, but they also conducted me to her and left me with her; that which *Anaximenes* the Captain that had the Custody of her, though it was wholly against the command which *Lucimon* had given him, was so far from opposing, that busying himself about something of his charge which required his present care, he gave us sufficient leasure of entertaining one another. We had indeed not only that first day, but also during foure dayes that I staid at *Suchieu* as much liberty with one another as before that *Lucimon* was jealous of it, and I made as frequent and as free visits to her as I desired, *Anaximenes* being very happily to our advantage so passionate of *Leonora* that she made him act what part she would.

After this rate of correspondencies persisted we to live till *Dorilas*, escaping out of prison into his Uncle *Lucimon*'s army and there hearing from that grand enemy of our loves all that he knew of them, came himself to *Suchieu* and there charged it upon his

Sister with very sharpe reproaches. Advertisement hereof she sent me by *Alexis*; whereupon, though she assured me withall that not brother, not Uncle, not all whosoever should either by fair or foul means be ever able to divorce her heart from me, I nevertheless with close and serious thoughts represented to my self that her quality, beauty, wisedom, vertue rendring her an equall match to the possessor of a throne, for me to aspire to the possession of her was to go about to debase her from her just height, to be guilty of an arrogance of which the fruite would be common envy if it succeeded, if it succeded not publique derision; and to pull upon me from her relations a loade of malice under which I must necessarily fall. From these and such like premises I drew a conclusion to beware for the future how I nourisht an affection of which nothing could in all likelihood come but unhappiness. But write this conclusion to her in relation to whom I made it I durst not; I only sent her word by *Alexis* that since her brother disliked that pious fire with which I offered my heart in sacrifice to her, I would for some time hide it under the ashes that so I might not kindle in him a design of destroying me, but yet, during that re-

reserve, would not fail of seeing her if it was possible, or at least of writing to her. Which message in what sense she construed, I know not, but this I know that from that time I nor saw her nor heard from her till after I was taken prisoner.

This turne of my fortune, having if I may speak it without vanity by an uninterrupted prosperity of my armes climbed to a sufficient eminency of reputation, I had at first no other sense of, than as of a fall, the disgrace and dammage of which was very hardly if at all to be repaired; but it afterwards proved of very profitable consequence to me. *Poliarus* tooke notice and care of me as of some body considerable, he appointed me no other jayle but his court, no other jaylor but my parole, he gave me a thousand rich experiences of his goodness, he earnestly prest me to ingage in his service, and I should without doubt have done myself the good office of satisfying him, had he been of the same religion with me. That he was not, was the argument that I used to him for my dispensation, and he took it not ill; only when by far better fortune than merit I was demanded to be released in exchange for three, the meanest of whom was of much more value than *Alcidor*, he obliged me to.

promiſe him that I would change my ſide when he changed his faith.

While I lay priſoner at the Court I was told by ſeverall of credit that *Floriſa* was erelong to be married to *Eridan*, prince of the royall Blood. Whereupon, what I had before carried by rote, I confirmed by decree that I would conſider her no more as my moſt adorable miſtreſs but only as my illuſtrious freind. But though I was fully bent to retire from her bonds, I notwithſtanding went to waite upon her as ſoon as I was at liberty, and in our converſe I uſed all the skill that I was Maſter of to veile my intentions from her. But we had not been long together before ſhe told me that ſhe after my long abſence obſerved a conſtraint and alteration in me which was very ſtrange to her. I endeavouring to make her looſe that opinion, and particularly excuſing my abſence by my impriſonment and upon that occaſion ſpeaking honourably, and as I was in gratitude bound, of *Poliſanis*, ſhe rejoined that ſhe was affraid the favours and vertues of that victorious prince had overcome me ſo as to make me at once abandon the intereſts of her family and grow cold in the affection which I had vowed to her. To this I was ſhaping an anſwer with which I hoped

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to satisfie her, but was prevented by the coming of *Dorilas*, which gave me no more leasure than to slip away without so much as bidding her Adieu, and I had no more opportunity of seeing her before that her suspicious brother carried her away to a place where she was more straightly guarded than ever.

At length the King after he had seriously deliberated of the concernements of religion making a turne which pleased some, displeased others, brought over to him the most remarkeable Lords of the Union, and rended *Lucimon* allmost desperate, with a most propitious condescension challanged me of the promise which I made him when I left his prison, and I readyly followed whither the loadstone of his authority and goodness drew me, not without the honour of having the incomparable *Lisantus* to beare me company. Him he presently made vice Roy of a province of *China*, to me he gave twenty thousand Takes in present to repair the expences that I had been at in maintaining the War against him, and foure thousand Takes in pension, causing me withall to be saluted by *Feonice* the ruling object of his affections and by her Sister *Asiafia* a principall beauty of his court.

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These things were not done with so little noise but that they reached the eares of *Elvisa*, and as *Alexis* brought me word she fell sicke with the hot alarum which she took at them. By him therefore I wrot back to her that she ought not to take it ill that I had quitted a party whom I at length had found to be most unjustly and disloyally armed against their Soveraigne, or that the danger which I saw and she knew I was every moment in by the ill will of her relations had made me think a little of acting as my preservation demanded of me, and that as long as I lived she should have cause to beleeve that I had for her a just veneration, a thankfull memory, and a faithfull service.

It followed by some intervalls, and I have done when I have told you it, that *Lisantus* and I were set on work by the King to help to destroy that monster (for so we now reckoned the Union) which we had so long assisted, and that we very prosperously atcheived our task, that *Dorilas* seeing no body obstinate for the league but his Uncle *Lucimon*, and having no mind to ruine himself with him askt the King's pardon and received it, that *Polianis* justly incenst against *Atalantus* for having incited and maintained his subjects against him with designe of seizing

zing the monarchy of *China* declared War against him, and obtained against him three signal victories, that the enemies forces being vanquisht by *Adraſtus* in the province of *Pequiam*, others of the ſame party entered into that of *Xiancy* and took *Ihianchieu* killing the illuſtrious *Liſantus* that defended it, that the famous *Aſtragant* yeelded himſelf together with ſeverall Townes to his Majeſty, that *Lucimon* ſeeing all his retreates loſt, all his hopes blaſted, and *Poliams* crowned King, with a penitent humility ſaught his grace and ſubmitted to his Scepter, that by this meanes a generall peace was reſtored to *China*, and in fine that the amorous intercourſe between me and *Floriſa*, which had been all this while dying but had made ſeverall efforts to recover it ſelf, they proving no more than blazes before the going out of the Candle, was by the end of the War wholly extinct.

Alcidor having brought his narration to a period, and the Company having paid him their thanks, I have been informed, ſaid *Dorame* to him, that your love did not die when it left *Floriſa*, but only like a Pythagorick ſoul paſt from one to another, from *Floriſa* to *Aſtaſia*, I ſhall therefore account myſelf very much in your debt if you will relate to us what were the tranſactions of it with that beauty

beautifull wife of *Certasilan*. There are many reasons, Madam, returned *Alcidor*, which forbid me doing what you desire. But the most remarkable of the truths which you would know, one of my freinds, designing so to oblige me, hath faithfully enough penned down. This manuscript if you think it worth your time to examine, I shall willingly put into your hands. Therewith he pulled out of his pocket and presented to her a little book of which the cover was *Crimson* velvet embroidered with Gold and adorned with Pearls and Cyphers. Having took it, vewed its outside, opened it, found the pourtraitures of *Alcidor* and *Astasia* on the first and second pages, and lookt awhile upon them, she gave it to *Melian* intreating him to read it to them, and he read it in these words.

The History of the Loves of Alcidor *and* Astasia.

ALcidor being returned to *Paquin* from *Canton* where he had subdued the remaines of the confederacy, now that the fires of the civill War were wellnigh all quenched, had a fire kindled in his breast by

by the beauties of *Aſtaſia* which was of too much force eaſily to be put out: And yet he had at firſt conſidering her known integrity to her husband no in couragement to hope that it would ſucceed to his ſatisfaction. But on a ſudden as if ſome fatality had laboured to cleere his way, *Certaſilan* with his nice and diſtemperd palate began to diſtaſt the viſits which the more gallant Courtiers made to his Lady. This folly prevailing with more and more unrulineſs in his ſpirit he at length never ſaw any body near her but he beleeved it was to corrupt her caſtity; Not though to obey and pleaſe him (ſeeing what diſeaſe he laboured under) ſhe ſhunned all the Company which ſhe thought he might ſuſpect, grew he ever the more ſober, but ſo interpreted all her actions to his fanſie that there was not the leaſt and moſt ſpotleſs of them with which he found not fault. Wholly governed with which frenzy he retrenched the uſage of thoſe reſpects which he had been wont to pay her and moſt unworthily loaded her with abuſes which it was impoſſible for her long to bear. She notwithſtanding practiſed all the ſweet meanes that her diſcretion was able to ſuggeſt to her to put him in a better mind; but inſtead of being thereby brought back to

reaſon

reason he was exasperated higher and grew more and more insupportable. Her teares which one would have thought able to melt cruelty it self rather increast than allaied his rage and her just complaints served to no better effect than to make him vomit a thousand contumelies against her honor. Nor were her own indeavors to appease him fruitless only but the Kings also, who having knowledge of his madness used what remedies he judged requisite for his cure, but without effecting it. During this ferall persecution of *Astasia*, *Alcidor* went every day to see her without her persecutor being able to hinder it, it being in the lodgings of *Feonice* and in the presence of *Poliarus* that he visited her; and as often as he saw her he made her see that he was as deeply concerned in her sufferings as she was herself. She again every day drunke in such a sense both of his sympathy and accomplishments as with the assistance of *Certasilan*'s outrages rendred this latter less and less and that former more and more agreeable to her. He proceded to manage time and his actions so advantageously to his purpose that she no longer regarded him but as one regards those whom one sincerely likes. She was not contented but when he was with her, nor dis-

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contented but when he was from her. She felt emotions and attempts which she had never felt before; by which discerning that Love was surprizing her heart she imploied all her strength to defend it, but he notwithstanding all made himself Master of it. Perceiving herself conquered, since thou findest it in vaine, said she to her selfe, to oppose the will of Love, of whom all the world holds in fee, rebell no more *Astasia*. Who can with common charity blame thee, because thou submittest to a puissance which disposes of all as it lists, and because thy affections lacquey no longer after a Master who hath most barbarously handled them, but run to one whose qualities are all irresistably magneticke, and who, if any body, is most likely to protect and releeve thee? who indeed if not *Alcidor* is able to bring *Certasilan* into order. But, alas, by what meanes should he do it? for him to speak to him in my defence what is it but to augment his jealousy? And though it may be he dares not assault him, may he not still revenge himself upon me, a woman who have nothing but sighs and teares for my armes against him? But imagine, *Astasia*, that *Alcidor* is able to supercede his oppression of me, who hath told thee that he will be at

the paines to go about it? The respects indeed which he renders thee seem to be such as would assure thee of it; but consider he renders the like to all Ladies, and had he a particular kindness for thee he would not surely have been untill this houre to let thee know it, every thing having favoured such a design. No, no it is impossible that a great fire should lye so long under its cinders without appearing more or less; It would therefore be a great vanity in thee to perswade thyself there is any such in his breast for thee. The Princess *Floriſa* indeed hath too much empire in her attractions to suffer him to subject himself to any other.

While *Aſtaſia* was discoursing thus with herselfe about *Alcidor*, he was at the same time resolving with himself to declare to her his passion, and considering that he had not liberty to do it by word of mouth by reason that *Certaſilan* had eyes and eares every where to watch her, he concluded to make a letter his proxie. Accordingly he without any farther demurre drew his thoughts on paper, sealed it up and made himself his messenger to carry it to her. He found her in her Sister *Feonice's* Chamber, she being newly come in to it, out of her closet where she had been some while shut up

up bemoaning her self, but *Certasilan* followed him in at the heels, and when they could have wisht him in the remotest part of the world debarred them by his Company from having any particular society. He kept his eyes such strict sentinells upon them both that they could hardly steal a few glances one of another, much less could they entertain one another as they desired. But after a while as if on purpose to dress a party against him, *Feonice* set upon him with so hot a charge for his untowardness to her Sister, that he could intend nothing but how to defend himself against her. Observing which opportunity *Alcidor* offerd his letter to the hand of *Astasia*, and she civilly receiving it slipt it into her pocket. *Feonice* still held *Certasilan* to task with her remonstrances of his fault, and she was so earnest in them and thought them so equitable that, though *Astasia* made frequent signes to her to desist, she would not be taken off till the Criminall having spent all the weak excuses which he could forge, said nothing more but what made her hope he intended to be better for the future, though as it afterwards appeared he at the same time resolved to be worse, with a very skillfull dissimulation laying a constraint upon his humor to hide

his design. Hardly had *Leonice* sat down from her action but *Polianis* came into the Chamber; whereupon *Certasilan* fearing a severe reprehension from him also made hast away; nor was he stopt by the King who had at that time other thoughts in his mind. *Certasilan* gone, his Lady pretending herself not well withdrew into her Chamber; *Alcidor* offerd to lead her, but she civilly refused it, and he prest it not guessing she went to read what he had given her. And he guest right; for having walkt three or four turnes in her Chamber among her women she went into her Closet, and having shut herself in opened the letter and read in it these contents.

Alcidor *to* Astasia.

I Have sighed so long for what you suffer and with what I suffer my self that I can no longer conceale it from you. I have had a far deeper sense of your troubles than if I had endured them myself. And it is not meerly a compassionate temper that hath bred this sense in me but a passionate Love. I contracted this Love at the first sight of you, it hath ever since increast by degrees, and it is now grown of too large a dimension and violence to bee kept hid.

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Punish not my temerity since your own beauty is the parent of it, but have some pitty for me, who have so much for you that I shall with triumph sacrifice my life to draw you from the tyranny under which you groan.

Having read this letter many times over and every time with more satisfaction than other, her husbands humor began to be altogether indifferent to her, and for *Alcidor* she reckoned she could do no less than draw a kinde answer to him and she drew this.

Astasia to Alcidor.

MY condition is such as permitts me not to slight either the sympathy that you pretend with me, or the succour that you offer me; the one may blunt the edge of my pressures, the other may put an end to them; I therefore with thankes accept of both. But I do not withall desire that you should hazard your life in releeving me: preserve it rather as carefully as you can, that so I may reap that benefit by it that I stand in need of, and beleive, that reckoning myself in a good part happy by the freindship that you assure me of, I shall esteem myself perfectly so when I shall have it in my power to evi-

dence to you that I am from my heart your ſervant.

Having wrapt up theſe lines, notwithſtanding thoſe that watch'd her actions ſhe ran with them to her Siſters Chamber, where ſhe knew the King and *Alcidor* ſtill were: The King when ſhe reentred was in a particular converſation with that abſolute Miſtreſs of his heart, and he went on in it. *Alcidor* was at ſome diſtance veiwing pictures in which art had ſo dextrouſly imitated nature that things dead ſeemed alive and ſenſible: but he quickly left them when he ſaw her appear who had reall life and ſenſe accompliſht above the imitation of art, with wit, beauty and goodneſs, and taking the opportunity went and confirmed to her by words of his Letter. She gave him for anſwer what ſhe had written, which having read in a corner where the King and *Feonice* could not ſee him he with a thred of gratefull, reſpectfull and affectionate language tied her heart to him in a moſt faſt knot. She owning as much to him, they proceeded to contract their affections one to the other with moſt ſolemne vowes of reality and conſtancy; and in this ſtrain they were when the King called *Aſtaſia* to him and askt her

if

If she would go along with *Peonice* to the waters. To this your Majestyes desires, returned she, and my Sisters Company are of much more value to me than that I should be backward either to obey the one or follow the other, provided that he to whose humor I am subject will grant me a licence. Believe me, *Astasia*, replied the King, if that untoward man shall hereafter go about any thing against my will I shall limit him so that he shall not be able to act but by the rule of my pleasure. There cannot indeed be found Sir, said she againe to him, an expedient more proper to still his tyranny than to oppose to it an august power as is that of your Majesty. *Certasilan* surely, inserted *Alcidor*, will not be so rash as to resist his Prince, who he knows reigns by justice and clemency together, and when he shall find that injuring his Ladies vertue he enterprizes upon his soveraigne's authority that undertakes her protection I do not doubt but he will out of a sense of his equity and for fear of his anger make his suspicions die. We will wait to see what he will do now, said *Polianis*, and if he does well, I shall as he deserves cherish him, if ill, punish him. In the mean while, *Astasia*, prepare for the journey with your Sister, I shall be very

much pleased that you accompany her, and I cannot beleive that your husband can be troubled at it, when he shall know that I am so pleased. Those that are ill temperd as he, Sir, said *Feonice*, take occasion as well to speak against the wills of Kings, which are regulated by sober and discerning reason, as of common people who act not but according to the dictates of brutish appetite, without being able to distinguish what is good from what is bad. But I perswade myself, said *Alcidor*, that *Certasilan* will hereafter governe his motions with so much prudence that his Majesty will not be put to any trouble to reforme them.

They thus discoursing for a while together, then the King resuming a particular conference with *Feonice*, and by favour of that occasion *Alcidor* doing the like with her Sister, *Certasilan* in the mean time, miserably rackt himself, feares that the Letter was resolving his wife to practises against him, and to augment his inquietudes he apprehended that if he went presently to interrupt them the King would (not without being offended) discover the disease with which his spirit laboured, if he waited till the King was gone that *Alcidor* would in the interval bring his wife to his will. Wandring

dring about in this perplexity he met two Magistrates, freinds of his, who according to the order that they had received were going to wait upon the King at *Feonice*'s Lodgings: Them he went a long with thither, without shewing any thing of his trouble, and before the King and his Company appeared, in a gainess of temper which gave them thoughts of him very different from what they had lately had; *Polianis* desiring of him that his wife might the day following beare her Sister Company to the Waters he expresst a free and cheerefull consent; he discourst with *Alcidor* as if he had had no other fansy of him but as of his dearest freind; he shewed to *Astasia* as kind regards as when they were first married. And these he continued to her not only while the King was present (who after he had beene a little in privare with *Feonice* bad her and her Sister fare well, *Alcidor* doing the like and attending upon him) but also till she went away, which she did the next morning, having a splendid equipage provided by him for her journey.

About sixe dayes after the two Sisters were come to the Waters, *Astasia* fell strangely sad without being able to give any reason why she was so. While she was dominee-

red by which humor, and *Feanice* was endeavouring to asswage it, word was brought her that a lacquey desired to speak with her. She commanding him to be brought to her with hopes to find him *Alcidor's*, he appeared in a livery which told her to her greife he was not, and presented a Letter to her, with which, when she had opend it she was thus accosted.

Floras *to* Astasia.

CErtasilan *takes me for one of the most wicked men in the world, but I shall let you see that his wickedness is far greater then mine. I have received instructions from him eight dayes hence to carry you secretly to one of his houses, where he resolves to keep you prisoner all your life. I give you notice of it to the end that you may prevent it, and I withall intreate you to keep it secret. It is a glory to shun the precipice into which an enemy would make one fall: think therefore at present both of comforting and of delivering yourself and hereafter when you shall command me I shall entertaine y u more at large with the story.*

As *Astasia* read these lines she often turned pale and red by sudden vicissitudes. Seeing

ing which without doubt, my Sister, said *Feonice* to her, you have a subject of affliction in what you read. The newes (alas!) which I have sent me, replied *Astasia*, are sufficient to alarum and distract a spirit much more fortified than mine; read them, my deare Sister, and see if it is without cause that I am troubled. *Feonice* having read what she shewed her, *Treacherous* and *Salvage* man together, cried she, can heaven know thy pernicious baseness and not abiss thee? What hath *Astasia* done to thee that thou shouldst thus unworthily treat her? It is necessary, my Sister, adjoined she, not only to beleive *Floras*, but at whatsoever rate to deliver yourself from *Certasilan*. I now see, resumed *Astasia*, that tho melancholy with which I have been oppress, but of which I could not tell you the reason was an augury of the evills which this inhumane brewes against me, and indeed we often have sadnesses, which though we know not the ground nor meaning of, are omens of misfortunes which too nearely (though darkely) hang over our head. But there is a remedy for those that are prepared for you, said *Feonice*; *Floras* hath befreinded you with the meanes of avoiding them; Let us therefore retire into your Closet, there to

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contrive your safety. Entered there *Astasia* fell on weeping as if she had had an intention to drown her life in her Teares: but her Sister at length prevailing with her to dry her eyes to consider of what she had to do, I think it requisite, said she to her, that you should first of all make answer to *Floras*, and then when we have dismist his man, we will send advertisement to the King of *Certasilans* purposes. You know the compassionate nobleness of his spirit, and what an enemy he is to such as are treacherous. You neede not therefore doubt but he will quickly restrain if not punish the wickedness of that wild beast your Husband. I cannot but acknowledge, returned *Astasia* to her, that *Polianis* is the most excellent Monarch in the world, and that he interests himself therefore also in the concernements of my fortune because I am your Sister. But will not this be to be allwayes a prisoner to stay with them whom he shall appoint to hinder *Certasilan* from imprisoning me? I have a secret which I must no longer conceal from you, *Alcidor* loves me, and that (if I do not mistake by being over-credelous) in such a degree that there is nothing of difficulty which can affright him or will hold him back from succouring me.

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If you are certaine of *Alcidors* affection, replied *Feonice*, you need not be afraid of *Certasilans* cruelty: but what evidences have you of it and since when was it born? see the testimonies, returned *Astasia*, giving her *Alcidors* Letter, after which I think I cannot lawfully call his love in question: see also the returne which I have made to it, added she, giving her a copy of her answer to him. *Feonice* having perused them, *Astasia* made a relation to her of what had past between them, which done, considering all, said *Feonice*, I no longer doubt that *Alcidor* loves you and therefore I no longer apprehend that your condition is desperate. And as to your love of him a woman barbarously handled as you have been by one bound to use you with all imaginable sweetenes as is *Certasilan*, cannot be blamed for seeking arefuge against that barbarisme. One allwayes lookes with pitty upon those women who do nothing that may seem dishonorable but what absolute necessity constraines them to, and though it be a most reproacheable business to deceive a good husband, it is, if an offence, a very pardonable one, to free ones self from the persecution of a bad one. I reckon indeed, replied *Astasia*, that if in this present streight wherein I am against my

will

will ingaged I take any course that shall obscure my vertue and bring it into question; the reall fault will be his who by his intolerable usage of me forces me to it. With these words the Teares coming apace in her eyes *Feonice* to give a stop to them put her upon drawing an answer to *Floras*, which she did to his effect.

Astasia *to* Floras.

HAd *you never given any other proofes of your generosity than what you have now given me, they are sufficient to make me esteem you one of the most generous men in the world. He whom* Certasilan *hath chosen to execute his cruelty upon me is he who delivers me from it, than which nothing can be more noble, nothing more obliging. Such a sense of it hath my Sister, and she will let you see that she hath: much more have I, and I shall allwayes indeavor by my due acknowledgements of your goodness to testify to you that* Astasia *is though an unfortunate yet not an ingrate.*

Feonice approoving this letter *Astasia* sealed it and delivered it to the lacquey of *Floras* with a largess which abundantly rewarded his paines. The Messenger gone, this

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is not all, my Sister, said *Feonice*, now you have the quill in your hand write also to your *Alcidor* and summon him to keep his promise of assisting you; I doubt not but we shall have him here with us soon after he knowes that you have need of him. I shall try, replied *Astasia*, what influence my words can have upon him, and therewith thus set down her mind.

Astasia to Alcidor.

I Am upon the point of being undone if you come not quickly to me to oppose your charitable power to the unjust rage of Certasilan. *A few dayes hence he intends to have me conveighed to a perpetuall prison: it is from the person who is to carry me away that I have received the favorable notice of it. Though my merit cannot, yet may my misery at this time induce you to act for my contentment. All is said when* Astasia *conjures you to do it by the affection that you pretend to beare her.*

Astasia putting this letter into her Gentleman's hands, he put it by point of day the next morning into *Alcidors*, and *Alcidor* had no sooner read it, but, I have now, said he to himself, got into my power such an op-

opportunity as I have often wisht for of letting *Astasia* see, that I place my happiness in serving her; that I prize my own life less than her liberty, and that having love for my Commander there is nothing too hard for me (to attempt at least if not) to break through in her Quarrell. Considering therefore, proceeded he, that nothing is more prejudiciall to businesse of moment than remissenes, and that *Feonice* being of our party will render *Polianis* also of it, let us make haste to her who with so much sweetnes and earnestnes calls us. What he said he made good, mounting presently on horsback with halfe a score men in whom he had confidence, and arriving with the two Sisters just when they were preparing for bed, not without filling them with astonishment at his diligence and contentment at his presence. You are come, Sir, said *Feonice* to him, (while *Astasia* recollected her scattered senses,) to succor my Sister against her Husband who goes about to murder her with affliction; I very much resent my self your debtor for it, and possibly I shall not be so unhappy but I shall have the power one day of giving you proof of my resentment together with her. I have, Madam, replied *Alcidor* to her, nor power, nor courage nor

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freinds nor interest which I will not gladly imploy in the service of your Sister who deserves no less at the hands of all that know her. But the business being of action bare words are unprofitable as which ought to have effects for their warrant. What therefore is there requisite to be done, Madam, for this Lady whom I see wholly seized with the apprehension which she hath of falling into the hands of her enemy. It is with the pleasure which I have with seeing you, said she presently to him, that I am thus extasied, and by that and by the liberty and confidence with which I have summoned you to my assistance you may easyly judge in what esteem you are with me. If we are by common humanity, Madam, returned *Alcidor* to her, bound to succor those whom we know not, as we without question are, it is a farr greater tye which I have upon me to do all that lies in my power for you who are the soul of my soul, and if I think not too fondly of myself, that zeal which I have for your security will, when you have told me what you judge fitting to be done for it, impower me to do it so happyly that I make no doubt but you shall soon see *Certasilan*'s purposes converted into smoke. *Alcidor*, replied *Astasia* to him, who knowes all the

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arts of War, who hath been used to break squadrons and force Towns, who found out plenty of stratagems to support the league, cannot surely want an expedient to deliver *Astasia* from *Certasilan*. I depended upon your contrivance as well as execution. Say therefore what course you judge in my condition convenient to be steered. Only first, adjoined she, giving him the letter of *Floras*, reade the information which hath been sent me of my condition. *Alcidor* having read the letter a consulation was held, of which the result was that *Astasia* should put herself in a pages habit that so, as *Alcidor* told her, she who was worthy to command the greatest Kings of the earth might in that garbe of servitude avoide the danger of being known, and under that disguise, the covert of the night and *Alcidors* conduct retire to a freinds house, there to lye hid till the King having notice of what was intended against her should, as they made no question but he would, take order for her safety. Accordingly *Alcidor* presenting to her a page's habit which he had for the purpose brought with him, she dresst herself in it, and in this dress her beauty was so far from losing any of its power that love who performed the cheif part in this act took advantage by

by it to ſtrike the Cavaleir anew, and he ſtrucke him with ſo much force that he ſtood gazing upon her without being able to ſpeak a word. *Feonice* taking notice of it, if he from whom you are to defend my *Siſter* meets you, Sir, ſaid ſhe to him, and you turn as voide of ſenſe then as you appear now, I may lay any wager that ſhe is loſt and am ſure to winne. But aſtoniſh your ſelf no farther to ſee her unhappineſs compell her thus to habit her ſelf. If you was capable of remarking, Madam, replied *Alcidor* to her that which Love makes me take notice of in this faire Queene of his Empire you would have your ſpeech and judgment left you as little it may be as I have had. *Certaſilan* himſelf could not with all the hard and feirce thoughts that he hath for her conſider her in this poſture but he would have ſome mild and tender ones mixt with them. This is but to trifle and make ſport with my miſefery, and we have at preſent ſomething elſe to minde ſaid *Aſtaſia*, and therewith fell on weeping, and *Feonice* together with her. But *Alcidor* to take them of from that ſad exerciſe obliged them to bid one another farewell, led *Aſtaſia* to her horſe, helpt her up and paſt away with her.

The Summer ſeaſon and the light of the

Moon making it pleasant travailing *Alcidor* renderd it more pleasant to *Astasia* by entertaining her with very taking discourses, and to himself by considering her feminine graces in her masculine habit. One thing which they both pleased themselves with was that their journey was known to nobody but those to whom they were willing it should be known, but here in they were deceived.

Certasilan had sent to the Waters to be a spy over his wife's carriage one *Berlin*, and he by counterfeiting the fool, had so easy an acces into the Lodgings of *Feonice* and *Astasia* that there was scarce any thing done there which he had not opportunity of being acquainted with. This subtle agent seeing *Alcidor*, arrive and knowing the suspicion which *Certasilan* had of him, with a vigilance which was most artificially dissembled observed all transactions and by that means (the Ladies and *Alcidor* using no caution against him because as they thought him void of apprehension) heard the greatest part of what they said, and particularly what way they would take to gaine their retreat. With this intelligence he flew to *Certasilan*, *Certasilan* again flew whither he directed him with a troop of his freinds and servants. But what-

whatsoever diligence he used, and he used all that he could, he could not meet with these whom he saught for.

Some hunters who had first seen in armes *Alcidor* and his Company seeing again *Certasilan* and his, not knowing who they were nor with what intention they were abroad, carried notice of it to the King. The King dispatching troops in search of them, some of them in the inquest met with *Berlin* who had lost his way in a Wood. *Berlin* informing them what the business was, they carried him to the King. The King hearing his story, though he disliked the action of *Alcidor* as knocking against his authority, he nevertheless commanded that *Emissary* of *Certasilan* and those that had taken him upon perill of their lifes to speak nothing of it.

As they withdrew from his presence with this order *Certasilan* enterd it and in a most pittyfull fashion applying himself to him; see me here, Great Prince, said he, to demand justice against *Alcidor* for his egregious. Enterprize in carrying away my wife from the place whither your appointment sent her to keep her Sister company. You are more just than not to chastise this audacious undertaker who at the same time braves your authority and ruines the honor of

one of your most faithfull servants. I come now from seeking him, and could I have found him I would have made him bear upon the feild the revenge of the offence that he hath done me. Though by your own confession, *Certasilan*, returned *Polianis* to him, you demand not justice of me but because you cannot execute it yourself, I have, notwithstanding that, a due compassion of your trouble. You had done well if as soon as you knew what *Alcidor* had done you had instead of arming you and going abroad with a party to set upon him in my forrest & kill him at the feet of your judge and his, came and complained to me of him. You know I suppose how your equipage hath alarumed me, and made me, least my own person should be aimed at, guard myself in a more than ordinary manner. But be patient and you shall see that I am King to animadvert upon those that are insolent. See withall, added he, what it is to incense wives, and the salary that one receives for suspecting foolishly their fidelity. Without question it is *Astasia*'s sense of the old indignities that you have heaped upon her and her feares that you would load her farther with new ones that have moved her thus to take her flight from you. Did you not know

know that I am acquainted with a part of your capricious and frantick carriage towards her, I ſhould not at preſent put you in mind of it. The care that I have taken to reform it may well make you remember the little account that you have made of my remonſtrances and deſires. How often too hath *Feonice* ſoberly reproved you for thoſe furious humors with which you have made her Siſter weary of her life without being able to do any good upon you. *Aſtaſia* would be much more blameable than ſhe is, had ſhe not ſo much cauſe to complain of you as ſhe hath, and *Alcidor* would be far more culpable than he is, if you had not given him a very ſpecious pretext with which to excuſe himſelf. Not that I approve enormous actions: time will ſhew you that I very well know to correct and curbe the raſhneſs of thoſe who enterprize more than they ought in my dominion, where I would have not vice but vertue bear ſway: I have nothing of good reaſon, Sir, ſaid *Certaſilan*, where with to purge myſelf of the fault with which you charge me. I freely confeſs I am in a high degree guilty both of diſreſpect to your Majeſty and of inhumanity to *Aſtaſia*: when I diſobeyed you, I had loſt my reaſon, when I treated her ill, I was madde, and

when I armed myself and my freinds to destroy *Alcidor*, my trouble made me forget my duty and think of nothing but revenge. Pardon me, Sir, for what is past, and for what is to come, I shall so change my temper that neither your Majesty shall have occasion to reprove me for my capricious and franticke carriage towards *Astasia*, nor *Feonice* for my furious humor. But to give proof of what I say, where is now *Astasia*? She is ravisht from me, Sir, and it is from your justice that I wait for reparation of the injury. If *Astasia*, *Certasilan*, said the King to him, hath caused herself to be carried away, it is not to ruine either her own honor or yours; her vertue forbids any thing bad to be suspected of her, and you well know she hath not gone away but to warrant herself from the afflictions which she apprehended you would lay upon her afresh. Retire therefore without any disorder, and leave me to manage her return and the whole affair; I will labour both for your contentment and of all that are concerned.

Certasilan in obedience to what the King said withdrawing, better satisfied than he hoped to be, was no sooner come into his doors but *Floras* came to him, expreſt a very af-

affectionate regret for his Ladies flight, and offerd to find her out whereſoever ſhe was and to carry her to whatſoever place he ſhould appoint. Beleeving he ſpake from his heart, he heartyly thankt him, but withall told him that he was now ſo far remote from any ſuch purpoſe as he before deſired him to aſſiſt him in, that he had no longer any ſuſpicion of his wife, and that, the King having promiſed to reconcile them, he made no queſtion but what had paſt, though it ſeemed to be very much to his detriment, would turn as much to his benefit.

While *Certaſilan* was thus growing convert from his jealouſy, though ſhe who had been the object of it little thought of his change, yet having reached her retreat in which ſhe ſaw ſhe was out of danger of the tormenting effects of that his raging humor, knowing alſo that ſhe had in *Feonice* a better ſecond with the King than that ſhe needed fear his anger, experimenting beſides in the company of *Alcidor* the difference between kind reſpects and barbarous indignities ſhe relaxed her mind, tied up as it had been to a diet of ſorrow, to feed at large upon delight. *Alcidor* alſo made much of the liberty which he had of her ſociety and congratulated himſelfe in it as a moſt bleſt man. But

yet amidſt theſe inchanting ſweetneſſes they both of them had ſo much conſideration that *Alcidor* by *Aſtaſia*'s approbation left her the next morning and went to the King to give him an account of what they had done. Which being performed, and the King having read the letter of *Floras* to *Aſtaſia*, it is by this, ſaid he to *Alcidor* holding it in his hand, what we ſhall ſtill the complaints of *Certaſilan*, who yeſterday demanded juſtice of me againſt you. I ſuppoſe *Floras* will not want the courage to maintain to his face that not being able to execute what he deſired without an odious baſeneſs he thought himſelf bound by the Laws of humanity to give notice of it to her againſt whom it was intended. I will therefore in your juſtification ſend for him and ingage him publickly to own himſelf the author of what you have been the agent. Your Majeſty, replied *Alcidor*, will (I make no queſtion) bring the affaire to ſuch an iſſue that the vertue of *Aſtaſia*, the honeſty of *Floras* and my fidelity ſhall lie under no ill name. He had ſcarce ſaid ſo when *Floras* came into the Chamber, whom the King as ſoon as he ſaw him asking what brought him thither ſo early he anſwerd, the ſervice that he owed his Majeſty. But how, ſaid the King, can I be-

beleive them my servants who league themselves with *Certasilan* to carry on his tyranny over his wife altogether contrary to my will. If your Majesty, returned *Floras*, will be pleased to let my speak for my self I make no question but I shall so fully clear my innocence in that which you accuse me of; that you will deigne me instead of your disfavor your approbation. Trouble not yourself *Floras*, replied the King, you may by this see (therewith he shewed him his letter to *Astasia*) that my accusation of you is only feined. But it is requisite that you maintain before me to the face of *Certasilan* that he desired you to be confederate and executioner of that detestable peice of violence upon his wife of carrying her to the place which he intended to make her jayle, and that having a horror of it you, as you thought yourself in honor bound, discovered the contrivance to her. Your Majesty, said *Floras*, requires no more of me than what truth, common equity and my own credit render my duty, and what I am therefore ready with all my heart to do. *Certasilan* will not, I am sure, deny that the evening before his wife went with her Sister to the Waters carrying me into your Majestye's garden he there told me that he was resolved

to

to ſhut her up and keep her in Cloſe impriſonment all her life, diſcoverd to me the plott that he had laid to effect it, and conjured me to be the Conductor of it, that which I promiſed him to be though at the ſame time I determined the contrary. Hearing him ſay ſo, the King ſent a page for *Certaſilan*; who preſently coming allmoſt out of breath with haſte, oh *Certaſilan*, ſaid the King to him, here is *Alcidor* now againſt whom you yeſterday demanded juſtice of me; tell me therefore if you are in the ſame mind to day. The offence that he had done me, Sir, replied *Certaſilan*, is greater by much than that unleſs I am unſenſible I ſhould eaſily forget it or paſs it by. To this *Alcidor* having his mouth open to repart, If you think, *Certaſilan*, ſaid the King, that in having delivered *Aſtaſia* from your ugly and unſufferable oppreſſion *Alcidor* hath committed a great offence, you muſt ſeek elſe where to have him puniſht than of me, and perſwade me to chaſtiſe myſelf. It was indeed by my order that he conveighd away your wife whom I knew *Floras* who is here preſent was by your order to carry away, to make her miſerable all her life. I would not yeſterday tell you this becauſe I expected that you would of yourſelf confeſs

your

your fault; but finding you still in the mind to persist in it, I would have you know that Kings have intelligences which their people have not. Hear *Floras* speak against you, he is a witness whom you cannot refuse. Presently *Floras* offering to convict him, see, *Certasilan*, proceeded the King, the Letter which hath discoverd your conspiracy, and obliged me to take into my protection the deare Sister of *Feonice*, and give *Alcidor* command to carry her away. *Certasilan* having read the Letter with the name of *Floras* to it, Just heavens, cried he, what means you have to take vengeance on the wicked, causing them to be detected by by the same persons whom they would render partisans of their wickedness. I see, Sir, added he, that he who I expected would have favoured my enterprize, hath accused me of it: but I am so far from taking it ill at his hands that he hath used me thus, that I very much esteem him for it, knowing that he hath herein been a true freind as well to my happiness as to his own honor. I confess, repent, renounce my bruitishness towards *Astasia*, and I will no more be governed with that madness which hath hitherto made me continually see things otherwise than they have really been. Hearing

him

him in this ſtrain, mens hearts, ſaid *Poli-anis*, do ſometimes change on a ſudden, but that *Certaſilan* whom all my Court have for his uſage of his wife reckoned not much better than a ſalvage beaſt ſhould in a moment become humane and tractable is a wonder which will very hardly gain beleif. I ſhall nothwithſtanding take your word and I ſhall indeavor alſo to bring your wife to do the ſame and to make you freinds. For a prologue to which reconciliation between you and her, I muſt at preſent have one made between you and *Alcidor*; oppoſe my will, neither of you. I am ready, Sir, ſaid *Alcidor*, to give *Certaſilan* teſtimony that I have a ſerious deſire to ſerve him. And I, ſaid *Certaſilan*, am ready to make it appear that I cordially honor *Alcidor*. Many more expreſſions of amity uſed *Certaſilan* to *Alcidor*, and *Alcidor* to *Certaſilan*; many alſo uſed *Certaſilan* and *Floras* to one another. In the interim of which laſt, the King drawing *Alcidor* aſide askt him, if it was not adviſeable that *Aſtaſia* ſhould be preſently brought back to *Certaſilan*. To this, that he might impede the union which he feared would impede his loves, your Majeſty, anſwered he, may undertake whatſoever you think good, and I acknowledge one cannot

do

do better than rejoin these divided spirits; but I withall know that *Certasilan's* acted and intended inhumanities have so irritated his Lady against him that she can scarce endure to hear his name; much less will she endure quickly to returne to his person. His brutall unkindeness hath newly forced her to seek her safety in running away from him, it cannot be therefore expected that she should suddenly trust herself again with him. For if she is of a sweet disposition she is also sensible of abuses. There is reason, *Alcidor*, said the King, in what you say: It is indeed necessary both that he should undergo pennance for what he hath done, and that she should receive satisfaction for what she had sufferd. He shall not therefore come near her till he hath appeased her. But that he may have no occasion of speaking or thinking ill of her absence and that all Kings may go according to decency, I would have her leave the place where she is, and put herself with the Religious of whom your Kinswoman is the superiour.

The King, who though he had a sharp ingeny to peirce into the mysteries of love perceived nothing of *Alcidor's* towards *Astasia*, having thus concluded with him about the disposing of her as if he had had a mind

to

to furnish him with meanes of seeing her without exception. Her husband coming to him, your Majesty, said he, I hope questions not my resolution of relapsing no more into my old disease; permit me therefore I beseech you to have before my eyes her whom I have most unjustly tormented but without whom I cannot now live but in torment myself. Considering the animosities which you have raised in her, returned the King to him, and the condition into which you have driven her, it would be plain folly to imagin that she should be easily bent and retrived to your will. She is not retired from the world to be willing to converse so soon again with men, especially with him who hath given her such arguments of distrusting him as you have done. My Counsell therefore to you is that suffering her to live with her regret for a time among that vertuous troop whither she hath withdrawn herself you let her know your repentance by letters, and by promising her a usage to come as kind as what is past hath been harsh, you endeavor to make her lose that grudge with which her stomach boiles against you. This I beleive to be the best expedient that you can use to restore you with her, and I will withall desire *Feonice*

as

as soon as she returnes to advance your reconciliation the quicklieſt that she can. That I muſt not presently have her company, answered *Certasilan*, is an infelicity which I know not how to undergo; but I shall, all that I am able, inforce myself to be patient under it, knowing myself to be the cause of it, and I will draw from my afflicted heart the most moving and effectuall lines that I can to procure my peace with her. I would have no other but *Floras* deliver them to her, said the King, for the sight of him will I beleive be very acceptable to her, since it was by his means that she knew and disappointed your intentions of immuring her. *Floras* speaking himself very desirous of the service *Certasilan* presently took him to his Chamber and there wrot this letter before him.

Certasilan *to* Astasia.

YOu are no more to fear the furious transports of Certasilan; *the King*, Alcidor *and* Floras *know that I have as affectionate desires of making your honor shine as ever my usage of you hath been cruell with which I have gone about to darken it. Remember therefore no more my outrages unless it be to represent to*

your

your self the greife which I have for making you suffer them, but permit me to come to you in the Cloister where Alcidor *hath told me you have settled your new abode. He and I am freinds, and I shall allwayes esteem myself redeuable to* Floras *for the advise that he gave you. Judge therefore if I consider not my misdemeanors with a penitent shame and horror.*

Certasilan having after he had read this Letter to *Floras* committed it to his charge, he and *Alcidor* went together with it to *Astasia*. In the Court of whose retreat they and *Feonice* very happily arriving together, she contained not her self a minute after she had notice of it, but instantly flew from her Chamber to receive them. The first ceremonies of meeting being done, *Floras* presented to her the Letter which he had in trust. Which she having read first to herself, then aloud, and *Floras* and *Alcidor* having related what had past between the King, *Certasilan* and themselves she expresst a joy which overflowed the banks of her usuall moderation, and she acknowledged herself debtor to both of them with a stream of thanks which though they set themselves against it bare them away with it. She besides as soon as she had opportunity declared

to

to *Alcidor* that she was therefore transported with the change of *Certaſilan* because she hoped that they two might by that means keep an unobstructed and an unsuspected correspondency. They indeed both of them watched all opportunities and made the best of them to give one another testimonies of an ardent affection, and there was nothing wanting to them but a full liberty of doing so to complet the sweetnesses of the present society. But to *Feonice* there was wanting the presence and caresses of *Polianis*: with him she thought long to be; but she was obliged by his desires of which *Alcidor* was the messenger to her, before she took her way to him to see her Sister safe at the Religious house where he had appointed she should stay. Thither therefore they all after two dayes conducted her, and there after two or three houres they left her, she having first written and committed to the care of *Floras* the ensueing Letter.

Astasia *to* Certasilan.

I Receive some comfort a midst my miseries by knowing that you are troubled for making me endure them, but I cannot lose my sense of the barbarousness with which you have made

me endure them. It is against that you know that I have been constrained, seeing what little respect you bore to the royall mansion, to take sanctuary in a religious one. Here, having consulted spirits to whom my interests are very dear, I am advised to pass some months to gain fresh strength with which to serve myself if you shall go about again to make me a sufferer, and hence I shall then come, and not till then, when I shall be well assured that you will have no more designe of making me your slave who am your wife and of destroying me whom you ought to Cherish.

The prudent trustee of these lines carrying them first to the King, then to him to whom they were directed, with the scheme in which he represented to him all things concerning his Lady at the same time, whetted his desires of recovering her company and workt him without any peevishness to submit to her determination of staying a while from him. The King, *Certasian* carrying the Letter to him, after he had read it the second time as if it had been the first, seconded what *Floras* had said to him and by the comment which he made upon *Astasia*'s text absolutely convinced him that for her to absent herself for a while from him was no more

more than what she owed to her innocence and to her repose, and that for him after he had driven her away from him to force her to returne to him before she thought it convenient, was to persist in his mercilesse persecution of her, not to repent of it. Notwithstanding this, his fond appetite of having her again with him growing every houre more and more restlesly eager, he was continually soliciting the King, *Feonice*, *Floras* and *Alcidor* to be the charitable authors of procuring and hastening it, and the three former were serious in advancing what he sued for; *Alcidor* also made shews of favouring it as much as any, but having liberty where she was of seeing her every day without disturbance, he clancularly set all the engines of his wit on work to keep her there: and by his elusive arts he retarded her returne to *Certasilan* for a month without either the King knowing any thing of their amorous converses or *Certasilan* discovering so much as the scene where they were acted. But at length the King making oath to that disconsolate and importunate husband that he would within eight dayes bring her back into his armes, and sending her Sister to her to effect it, he remonstrated first to himself and then to her, that to keep the King's fa-

vor, to perſerve her honor and happineſs, and dextrouſly to conduct the caball of their loves it was neceſſary ſhe ſhould rejoin herſelf with him to whom the Laws had tied her and whoſe remorſes called her back to him. To this his adviſe (they having ratified their affections to one another with freſh and ſtrong proteſtations of conſtancy) and to her Sifters perſwaſions ſhe reſigned herſelf and they went together the next morning to *Paquin*.

Here ſhe had not been many hours before word was ſent of it to *Certaſilan*, but this notice withall that ſhe would never more cohabit with him unleſs he would ſwear before the King, *Feonice*, *Alcidor*, and *Floras* that he would never more abuſe her. To this he returning anſwer that he had not ſo wholly loſt his reaſon as to refuſe to redeem his happineſs upon ſuch eaſy and honourable tearmes: an interveiw was orderd and effected, and he before the witneſſes that ſhe deſired made Oath to to her, that his carriage towards her for the time to come ſhould be a perfect recantation of what was paſt and an unblotted Coppy of all the offices of love. He having by theſe and other unqueſtionable teſtimonies of his reformation obliged her to be reconceiled to him, and ſhe having declared

clared that she was willing to be so, The King put her into his hands with a most binding exhortation to him to be as good as his word. Which done, and he having kist her with a kind of adoration before *Polianis*, he carried her to a house which he had prepared for her reception, and there the next day banqueted *Feonice Alcidor* and *Floras* with a most magnificent kindeness.

He in the sequele of this never stirred from her, but was continually paying her the respects not only of a fond husband but of a superstitious votary, and after a while that he might enjoy her beloved society at quiet he with her consent carried her into the Countrey and there settled their habitation. This change of their abode is beleived to have put an end to the loves between *Astasia* and *Alcidor*, in her absence another Lady taking possession of his heart: but having of this no clear knowledge I choose to speak of it not at all rather than not sufficiently.

Melian having done reading and resigned the book, and the Company having thankt *Alcidor* for the use of it, *Alcidor*, said *Dorame*, would be yet more obliging, if he would recount to us those his following loves which the writer sayes he was not well

though acquainted with. You will it may be, replied *Alcidor* when you have heard all, name me a very inconstant man; but there is nothing in the world besides your disaffection which I would not cheerfully undertake or undergo to satisfy you. I am therefore ready to do that which you desire. To this *Dorame* making no other answer but by disposing herself to an attention he succinctly related what had past between him and *Carmelia*, what also between him and *Felisbea*, carefully reserving whatsoever might seem to knock against the honor of either of them.

His narrative concluded, you cannot think, said *Dorame* to him, that *Felisbea* died for any thing else but for your neglects, and I cannot but wonder that her beauty being very taking, her spirit accomplisht and her quality honourable you would not think of marrying her. I acknowledge, returned *Alcidor* to her, that the birth and perfections of that young Lady were such as challenged for her a husband of a far higher forme than *Alcidor*; but there are certain fatalities which rule the course of our lifes, so that we act not but according to their prescriptions. What was the cause of *Felibea*'s death I know not, but the reason why I was

not

not in love with her without doubt was because my destiny reserved me to be in love with the incomparable *Dorame*. It is for the love and service of you, Madam, continued he that I was born and that I am to live: my passion for you is not of the number of those that are ruined by time; and this I reckon I can vow before no persons better than before these your nearest relations, and I vow it with so sincere an ardor that I am ready to signe it with whatsoever there is that is dearest to me. Hearing these words come from him, we have reason to beleive my neice, said *Rolimon*, that *Alcidor* speaks from his heart, and to what purpose should these many ceremonies be used where marriage is the substance aimed at? My opinion is that you should make a mutuall contract of love, after which there will be no fear that any body else should pretend to either of you. You speak, Sir, replied *Alcidor* to him, like one that knows how to find the knot of such an affaire as this in hand; And I swear, Madam, addrest he himself to *Dorame*, that, if you will think of no other husband but *Alcidor*, I will think of no other wife but *Dorame*. And I protest returned *Dorame* to him, that if you will have no other wife but *Dorame*, I will have no other hus-

hand but *Alcidor*. He having, as soon as those words were out of her mouth, with a graceſull veneration kiſt it, they again by *Melian*'s motion ſolemnely promiſt to marry one the other as ſoon as ſhe had completed her year of widdowhood, Which tie being made and thereby that which all the Company deſired as firmely ſecured as could be wiſht to be at preſent they with a generall pleaſantneſs, continued converſing upon that and other ſubjects till they were called to ſupper, and after ſupper till the late houres commanded them to bed.

The End of the third Book.

The

The Fourth Book

Acidor rising early the next morning as being kept from sleeping by his thoughtfull love found that *Dorame*, whom he beleived yet in bed, was gotten up before him and walkt abroad. Finding her out he entertained her with what she had been entertaining herself, his affections, and she changed not the subject till they were interrupted by *Rolimon*, *Melian* and *Vindorix* who came to bidde them good morrow and farewell together. The Lovers endeavoured to retain them, but they gave them reasons for their going away which induced them to allow it. Betaking themselves therefore all together into the house they had been but a few moments there when *Meonimus* arrived, and he had not been much longer there before

fore he told *Alcidor* that he mother of *Almidon* was about to inform against him for the killing of her son, adviſing him not to deferre getting a pardon by which to put himſelf out of all danger from the Law. At this n[illegible]ce *Alcidor* was not at all diſturbed, knowing that *Polianis* had a better opinion of him than to be quickly imprinted with a bad one or indeed to deny him any thing that he ſhould ask, but *Dorame* was very much troubled, and chooſing rather to deprive herſelf of her contentment in his company for a time than detain him with her when his ſtay might be diſadvantageous to him, conjured him with all ſpeed to make a journey to *Paquin* to the end that he might prevent his enemies and put himſelf under covert againſt their malice. This counſell being backt and urged by the reſt of the Company, he only ſtaied breakfaſt and badde *Dorame* adieu. *Rolimon*, *Melian*, *Vindorix* and *Meonimus* going a long with him to his houſe they all ſtaied there that night, and the next morning parted, the three firſt to go home, and *Alcidor* and *Meonimus* to Court.

Here *Alcidor* going to the King and reporting to him his adventures with *Cartagenes* and *Almidon* and the danger that he was in of being ptoſecuted for their deaths, he very

very graciously gave him his pardons for both and caused them to be allowed by the Counsell of twelve Auditors, the Letter which *Cartagenes* wrot before his death to *Dorame* and the testimony of *Limonides* serving very happily for his justification.

Poliamis farther by the contexture of *Alcidors* business understanding that *Dorame* was his Mistress expresst severall times to him that he was very much pleased with it; one time in particulat, there is nothing, brave *Alcidor*, said he to him, which obstructs your loves, for *Florisa* is courted in marriage by my Cozen *Eridan*, *Astasia* is lately dead, and *Carmelia* hath taken the habit of a Religious: See I say if there be any thing to keep you from pursuing and injoyning your present affections since of your three former Mistresses there is but one of them retaining to the world, where also she is so straightly guarded that nobody can have her Company but the Prince whom I now spake of. I am not ignorant of the Love which she hath had for you, her brother having recounted to me that which he knew of it by their Uncle, who hath many times had purposes of sending you out of the world upon that occasion. But she now gives hopes that she will entertain that new Lover, and not only *Dorilas* wishes

you

you as well as you can desire, but *Lucimon* also is disarmed of the choler which he hath had against you, knowing that the offence which he beleived you to have committed proceeded not from you but from his neice. These two Princes I have made your freinds, and I would have you as soon as you can joine myrtles to your laurells so that *Hymen* as well as *Mars* may render your life glorious. The many powerfull reasons, Sir, replied *Alcidor*, which I had to hold *Astasia* in esteem while he lived render it impossible for me not be troubled for her death. If *Florisa* is loved by *Eridan* and acknowledges the merit of that Prince of your blood, the succes will be far more advantageous to her than if she had nourisht an affection for one so unworthy of her as myself. For *Carmelia* I reckon that she could not have betaken herself to an abode more convenient to regret the loss of her deare *Clidantus* than that which she hath so sagely chosen. And for my own particular I have abundant obligation to your Majesty for the acts of Grace which your Clemency hath granted me, without that by an excess of favor you should procure me the good will of two Princes whose ill will I have allwayes been apprehensive of, and as much as I could shunned

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the means of provoking. If the Princeſs *Floriſa* hath done me the honor of teſtifying ſome kindneſs to me, I never have abuſed it, nor have I ever had the temerity to aſpire to things contrary to reaſon and my duty: and if for having before them quitted the party which they headed, they have wiſht me ill, why did they betake themſelves to the ſame obedience that made me acknowledge you my King? Have not they been conſtrained to ſubject themſelves to the Laws of your Majeſty as well as to thoſe of your Kingdome? You have acted, *Alcidor*, reſumed the King, very well in every thing, and with the ſervices that you have done me ſince you have reſtored your ſelf to your allegiance I have ſo much reaſon to ſatisfie my ſelf that waiting for ſome better gratification of them I at preſent make you my leiftenant of my Company of men at armes. *Liſantus* is dead, *Alcidor*, purſued he, and my regret for his death ſufficiently declares what eſteem I have for men of courage. At theſe words *Alcidor* could not hinder himſelf from letting fall ſome teares, nor could the King forbear having ſome ſtand in his eyes, and farther was the memory of the loſs of that great captain about to carry them into melancholy, when *Lucimon* and

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Dorilas came in to them and dismist it. See the generous *Alcidor*, my Cozens, said the King to them presently, love him for the sake of his valor, and for love of me; there are few of his fashion to be found in the world: we were just now speaking of you. The King thus accosting them and *Alcidor* very civilly addressing himself to them, they both imbraced him and acknowledging his high value, desired him to beleive that they had, and as long as they lived, would have a very cordiall amity for him. To which he having answerd them what was fitting, he left them and the King together and went to his Lodging.

Come thither he wrot to *Dorame* an account of all his occurrencies to this last, and particularly what was become of *Florisa*, *Astasia* and *Carmelia*. The conclusion of his Letter was an assurance of the King's approbation of their marriage and of his own speedy returne to her. *Limonides* was the carrier of it.

About three dayes after *Alcidor* being with the King newes was brought him that the forces of *Atalantus* had taken *Thiau* by assault and *Senoy* by composition, and made very ill work in the province of *Xanton*. Hereupon he with all speed called an as-

assembly in forme of the estates and caused to be levied a potent army with which to put a stop to the progress of those invaders. But while preparations were in hand against them, what by the imprudent willfullness of the inhabitants who would not receive any souldiers in garrison, and what by the menaces of some factious, they surprized *Huchio* in open day. Thither for the recovery of it the King determining within two or three dayes to march, he told *Alcidor* that nothwithstanding his affairs of love he must go along with him his Feild-Marshall; but withall that he might go first and wait upon his Mistress for a few houres. Which liberty he used with a diligence which carried him quickly to her, if the first sight of him inspired her with joy, he quickly changed it into affliction, by telling her what a short limit of time he had to stay with her, and what imployment the King had ingaged him in which renderd it so short. Hearing this, to go to this seige, said she, with a face full of trouble, is to go to be killed rather than to fight; I cannot therefore, added she, but be very much dissatisfied with your going. But setting before her eyes the Kings command and the forfeiture which he should make of his favor by not obeying it, then the

glory

glory of the imployment and the irreparable damage which he ſhould contract to his honor by refuſing it, perſwading her alſo that there was not ſo much danger in the expedition as ſhe imagined and that in all probability he ſhould not be long before he returned, he in a good meaſure leſſened her diſſatisfaction. What remained after this of the three houres which he told her he had to ſpend with her they made much of in proteſting to one another inviolable affections, and in giving and receiving careſſes of which the harmleſs fervor and ſweetenſs made it pitty they ſhould be quickly broken of: But time calling him away they kiſt and badde adieu, not without ſighes on both parts, love requiring that tribute of them.

No ſooner was *Alcidor* returned to *Paquin*, but he parted from it, the King the next day marching away to inveſt *Huchio*; and there the firſt task of his armes was to defeate the forces of the enemie's Feild-Marſhalls, and he therein performed wonders. Some dayes after the ſeige was fixt the groſs of the beſeiged Cavalry making a ſalley with deſigne of beating up a quarter, and it being *Alcidors* let to command that time at the place where they came on, though he had not with him above two thirds of the Kings Com-

Company of men at armes, and the enemies were four or five hundred Lances, he upon a ſlow pace attended them, and ſtoutly receiving them, performed againſt them all that was poſſible with ſo ſmall a number. He had not indeed ſtrength enough to keep his men from being at length beaten back; but he quickly returned with them to a ſecond charge, and at the inſtant that *Polianis* was diſpatching ſuccours to him inflaming his own courage and animating his Companions fell with the impetuouſneſs of a Whirlewinde into the enemy-ſquadrons, put them all in diſorder, made them turn their backs, and purſued them, taking and killing them, as farr as the counterſcarpe of the trench. To this action the King and *Adraſtus* his Leiftenant-generall, in whoſe ſights it was done, gave applauſes which plainly fore ſhewed the memory of it would be immortall. Several other engagements made *Alcidor* with the enemy during the ſiege) continually throwing himſelf into the moſt dangerous places) and in all of them he was a very ſucceſsfull purchaſer of renown, but in one of them together with renown, he got a wound with a muſquet-ſhot in the legg, which compelled him for awhile to lie ſtill.

Silarmin Generall of the forces of *Atalan-*

tus after he had made many attempts to succour the beseiged and saw he was not able to atcheive it taking his way home wards, and thereupon they in *Huchio* (the Indian garrison first passing out in good order) yeelding it up to the King, he presently led his army (which was composed of the military flower of his Kingdome) after the enemy into their Countrey; but the memory of his past victories imprinting such a terror upon their souls that they feared nothing so much as that *Mars* of *China*'s fury; he could by no means draw them to a battel. There indeed appeared nobody in the Feild to stop his triumphant progress; but to prevent the universall ravaging of his territories *Atalantus* dispatched to him proposalls of reconciliation, and to give his empire a calm he freely accepted them. Peace being re-established and the armies on both sides disbanded, *Polianis* promist his subjects a golden age in room of that iron one, which had so long and so sadly aggreived them, and what he promist at the instant began to appear: the artist workt with security, the Merchant trafficked with freedome, the Villager laboured the earth without fear, King, Prince, Lord, Gentleman, Souldier, they of holy Orders and those of common quality feasted them-

themselves with those sweetenesses of repose, pleasure, advantage, which the tumults of the sword had a great while hindered them from so much as tasting, in a word all every where in *China* appeared with a laughing face.

Of this universal joy *Alcidor* took part a while about the King, but not with a full satisfaction: to make it full he must see *Dorame*, and not only see her, but also accomplish his marriage with her. The King therefore at his request dismissing him, not without extraordinary commendations of him in the midst of his Court and other remunerations of his services worthy of such a Prince, he flew a long the wayes without resting till he was with her. Being gotten again, together (not without a kind of intoxication of delight at their first meeting) they imployed their time in recounting to one another some remarkable peices of their fortunes which they were not yet acquainted with, and particularly what had occurred to them since their last separation, in discoursing of others and by name of *Cloriastes* and *Carmelia*, the former of whom was as well as the latter entered into a religious Order, in entertaining themselves as occasion and their ingenies led them, but principally in in-

terchanging pledges of dearneſs and in deſigning the order of their wedding.

They thus wearing out the year of widowhood, *Alcidor* the next day took horſe to go wait on *Rolimon*, *Melian*, *Vindorix* and ſome other friends, and having ſpent ſome dayes upon that occaſion he ſpent two at home, during which his houſe had the aſpect of a ſuperbe Court with the viſits which perſons of Grandeur made him, and with the noble receptions which he gave them. He had here indeed abundantly enough of reſpect ſhewd him, and good company enough came in to him and was likely to do ſo, to have tempted him to ſtay longer, but love called him away, and he took the road to *Dorame*, having firſt intreated her and his friends to be the eighth day after at her houſe to aſſiſt at their hymenean rites.

The day come and thoſe that were invited rendring themſelves at the palace of *Dorame* (for ſo it may well be called, conſidering the glories with which it ſhonne) the illuſtrious pair of Lovers were joined together with ceremonies of exquiſite ſtate; there was indeed nothing of the day which did not make it memorable, the feaſting, the dancing, the masking, the muſicke were all inſtances of choice gallantry and magnificence, but the faireſt

fairest thing of all was the delivering up of *Dorame* into the hands of *Alcidor* by Ladies whose beauty deserved, they should have been lookt upon as so many Suns, but that it was obscured by that of the Bride.

What past in the night between this excellent couple is a mystery, which to divulge would be to profane; but they appeared the next morning like such who had been drinking to and pledging one another in those delights which are the prize, the recompence, the food of love. Their humor had nothing in it, but serenity; the Company therefore had nothing in it, but mirth; and to nourish it to the highest, improvement was made of all the recreations of body and spirit that were gentile and opportune. This continued eight dayes together, after which (there being a necessity that such festivities should have an end, as well as a beginning) the assembly dissolved and left *Alcidor* and *Dorame* to enjoy themselves by themselves.

But it was not long before *Alcidor* carrying *Dorame* to his principall House and there installing her absolute Mistress of his estate, as he had done before of his heart they kept a kind of second wedding: Company flowed in from all the neigbourhood to wish them

joy and pay them honor, and all the time of their ſtay was ſpent in little elſe but in Feaſts, Balls, and receiving and making Viſits.

There now wanted nothing to complete *Alcidor*'s ovation, but that his Sun ſhould diſplay her beams in the horizon of the Court. Thither therefore they went together with an equipage which made all *Paquin* admire it's ſplendor, as much accuſtomed as it was, to ſee great things. *Doraine* was ſo radiant and her retinue ſo bright, that hardly could there have been imagined a train perfectly aſſorted to hers, had not *Alcidor* marched with the ſame air. He indeed in this notable occaſion omitted none of thoſe brave things which had been born with him, and which he had all his life practiced.

Preſenting themſelves to the King, he entertained them with demonſtrations of extraordinary favor and contentment in ſeeing them: Staying about half an houre in his preſence, the moſt gallant of the Court were all the while gazing upon them with affectionate admirations: Going away, *Dorilas* who at the inſtant came in detained them a while with an accoſtage made up of civility.

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Dorame indeed while her husband *Clisidas* lived was esteemed one of the faireſt and moſt charming Ladies of the Court; but they who knew her then, and conſiderd her now, and compared what ſhe was then, with what ſhe was now, proclaimed her beauty & attractions doubled. In augmentation of this glory ſhe ſuffered it not to make her vainly conceited, but the more ſhe was extolled, the more humbly ſhe demean'd herſelf: Every wayes were both ſhe and *Alcidor* of ſuch a frame as made them happy in one another. Never was correſpondence more perfect, than theirs, never was contentment ſweeter; but this latter laſted not long. *Dorame* after ſix moons growing heavy with Child had by that means ſo much indiſpoſition, that ſhe was ſeldome to be ſeen out of her bed, and *Alcidor* had ſo deep a ſenſe of it that he was ſeldome to be ſeen out of a dark humor: her illneſſes increaſt and therewith his greifs ſwelled high. And yet amidſt his ſwollen greifs he would have reckoned himſelf in ſome ſort happy; if he might ſtill have injoyed her; but to make him the moſt afflicted man in the world ſhe was by the ravenous hand of death taken away from him; ſhe died in Child-bed together with her Child of which ſhe could

not be delivered. Before she expired, I see, my *Alcidor*, said she to him, I must go from you; it is the will of fate, and that is not to be opposed by our wills. I know the kindness that you have for me, will render my death bitter to you; but let it be with moderation that you afflict yourself for it. I have done, my dear *Alcidor*, added she, I leave you, Adieu. Saying so and imbracing him she breathed out her soul upon his lips. At the instant he grew as void of motion, as if he had been as much without sentiment, as the dead body, he sent not a sigh after her, he made no kind of complaint, he was indeed wholly stupefied with extremity of greif: But after a while coming to himself, he by all the great kinds of lamentation characterized himself a most distrest man, there is nothing of serious and masculine sorrow which was not to be seen in him, and he wholly abandoned himself to be governed by it. Oh Heavens, cried he, what a treasury of beauty and virtue you have despoiled me of! why did you make her so fair, so good, to take her so overhastily away? why did you make me a little while happy in injoyning her, to render me altogether miserable in being without her for the rest of my dayes? Oh the forces of adversity which I have

to

to conflict with but know not how to ſtand againſt!

If the nuptialls of *Dorame* were eximiouſly remarkable with their refulgent and joyous, ſo were her funeralls with their ſable and lugubrious pomp; the King contributed to it his part, all the Court aſſiſted at it, there was nothing miſſing in it, which might ſerve, either for the honor of the dead, whoſe quality and merit chalenged the moſt ſtately obſequies, or for a teſtimony of the diſconſolate Widower's love and greif which were both extreme. He had indeed ſo much love for her, that he had none for life; Now that ſhe was no longer living, he would gladly have been laid in the grave with her: he had alſo ſo much greif for the loſs of her that all mention of comfort was a new way of afflicting him, that all viſits were troubleſome to him, and that all endeavors to appeaſe his ſorrow proved ineffectuall, thoſe of his other freinds who practiſed all the meanes of doing it that they could deviſe, thoſe of the Princeſs *Floriſa* who ſent *Alexis* to him upon that errand, and thoſe of the King who laboured it with a particular concerne.

While *Alcidor* was ſpending dayes and nights in lamenting his loſs, *Polianis* conſidering

dering he could have no heirs to his Crown by the infertile *Agenora*, upon mature deliberations concluded to divorce her, and though she was one of the highest born Princesses of *Asia*, and her beauty and ingeny ran parallell to her birth, yet whether she preferred the good of the publike before her own interest, or whether she was swaied by any private reasons, she testified no other relish of the resolution, than what disposed her to consent to it. This notable separation was no sooner known by the Potentates of *Asia*, but they all sought that *August* mans alliance; Princesses were offered him together with Principalities: but of all the pourtraitures that were presented to him none pleased him so much as that of the Princess Partenice, and with her he translated and accomplisht a marriage. The conjunction of these two Starrs of the greatest magnitude and splendor and of most benigne influence making *China* all a bright Heaven by their shining in it, made it yet more so by their having another illustrious Star for their issue, a Son whose birth made his mother's pains sweet, his fathers glories full and the people's joyes alike great and universall. In the publike rejoicing which was made upon this occasion *Alcidor* who had till then done nothing else

but

but ſigh over the fate of *Doraxie* thought him ſelf in duty obliged to be a party. He therefore induced his ſoul to diſmiſs ſome part of thoſe black thoughts which reigned in it and dreſt his face in the characters, which it had not a long time worn, of cheerfullneſs. Which the King and Queen ſeeing and conſidering that it was an effect of the intereſt which he took in their happineſs they told him they were his glad debtours for it, and taking the opportunity improved it to cleer his ſpirit from thoſe thick clouds, with which it was ſtill overcaſt. Here in there workt with them all of quality that were acquainted with him, and they had the ſucceſs that they deſired; he promiſed them not to think ſo much of Tombes for the future but to divert himſelf, and accordingly frequenting the palace, viſiting Ladies, and uſing recreations, he by little and little chaſed away his melancholy, it contributing to his repoſe that the Princeſs *Floriſa* was by the earneſt perſwaſions of her freinds and by the ineſtimable merit of *Eridan* wonne to receive him for her husband, and thought herſelf happy in him.

It being impoſſible that a man of worth as *Alcidor*, deſtined by the reſerves of fate to give of his race to that flouriſhing empire to which

which he had given extraordinary remarkes of his valour, ſhould remain allwayes a widower; after he had been a good time ſo, he ſaw at a ball a Lady from falling in love with whom he was not able with all his ſtrength to defend himſelf. Her habit told him ſhe was a Widow and upon enquiry he learnt that ſhe was Widow to *Palemon* who took Prince *Meander* priſoner in battle, that ſhe was iſſued of one of the moſt antient houſes of the Kingdome and that ſhe was Miſtreſs of a moſt plentiful fortune. This he liked very well, but that which captivated him and made his heart hers was that her face exactly reſembled *Dorame*'s, that the eyes, the ſhape, the features, the aire of the one, were the eyes, the ſhape, the features, the aire of the other. His paſſion for her riſing from this ſpring grew to a large, deep, and rapid ſtream, when by getting acquaintance with her, he found ſhe was like *Dorame* not in body only; but in mind alſo, that the wit and vertues of the one, were the wit and vertues of the other. Thinking therefore that as often as he ſaw *Florinda* he ſaw *Dorame* and beleiving that after *Dorame*, he could not find ſo meritorious an object of his affections as *Florinda* he ſtaied not long before he addreſt himſelf to her

her in the quality of a lover, and what with the King's Favouring of his Suite, what with her friends and particularly the discreet *Celida* her Sister telling her, that to make herself happy she must take him for her husband, what with the affectionate observances which he used towards her, what with the unmatchable accomplishments which she saw in him, she was wonne to admit him in that quality, after she had driven to despair with her coldness many gallant persons who ambitioned the title of her servant, and not only so, but to love him also as much as ever did *Floriſa*; *Aſtaſia*, *Carmelia* or *Dorame*. Cupid indeed had no reason to be less favourable to him, than *Mars*, for he had sacrificed upon the Altars of the one, as well as of the other, and that with equal devotion.

During the transaction of these amours as *Alcidor* was one day returning from the chase, there met him an unknown and in so handsome a fashion requested him to be his Second in a combate which was that hour assigned him, telling him who he was (and he was *Periander*) and who were of the other part, and what was the ground of the Quarrel that he without any farther ceremony went along with him. Fighting they killed

killed those with whom they fought, returning to *Paquin* they found themselves to be Cozens, meeting with in a day or two, their action passing about upon the wing of fame, they contented themselves with the elogies that were given them under the fase names of Incognitoes without being so imprudently vain, as to challenge the interest which they had in them. But *Lofruel* whom they left for dead upon the Feild, being enough acquainted with their persons, as well as too much, with their valours, before he died made report of both. Herewith all the Court presently sounded, and it was not long before it came to *Florinda*. So she gave her lover to understand by the severe reproof with which he entertained him the next time that he saw him: but the excuses which he made for what he had done, and the promises wherewith he assured her that he would ingage him self no more in such Quarells easily obtained his pardon of her.

Hence *Celida* took occasion to represent to her Sister that it very much imported her to hasten her marriage with him. *Alcidor*, alledged she, hath too much of the man in him to turn his back to honor, or to refuse the combate when obliged to it. His firm

active

active and known courage will be continually ready to carry him into dangers, but it may not always bring him safe out of them; for though he is one of the most valiant men in the world, he is not immortall, a misfortune may befall him: but when he is your husband, your influences will restrain him from hazarding his life, and he will preserve himself for love of you, when he would not, for his own sake. Procure therefore as soon as you can this good to him and to yourself.

Florinda, liking and following the counsell, by her inflaming forces, and expert management of them bred in *Alcidor* so eager a thirst of having their marriage speeded that it was, before a month was gone by, dispatched. It was celebrated with the presence of the King and Queen and severall Princes and Princesses, and the celebrity went beyond all example; that of his wedding with *Dorame* was excelled by it. And not only the pomp of the latter was more splendid, than that of the former, but the success also was much better. For *Dorame* lived with him not one Year, but *Florinda* many Years; by *Dorame* he had no Child that survived her, by *Florinda* he had 3 Sonnes and 2 Daughters, all of them of rare Endowments.

For

For a long time was *Polianis* as happy a King, and *China* as flourishing a Kingdome as any in the World, they had no experience what the troubles of arms meant: but they were at length disturbed by the Indian King, who as if unable to be quiet, but in the inquietudes of War; And ambitious of meriting the title of Conqueror, and uspurper together, beseiged a Town with the people of which, who lived then, and live still in a common wealth, *Polianis* had a very strict alliance. His succor therefore being begged by them he caused the drum to beat, the Trumpet to sound and an army to advance, of which that great Captain and Prince *Rosileon* found him self constrained to say that he never saw a braver Nobless or more complete Fantassins, and which striking a terror into the enemy, made them fly before them, handled them very much to their dammage in their flight and dissipated them so, that there was no fear left of their return. In this expedition in which all was done, that either the glory of *Polianis* or the relief, of his allies required, *Melicertus* being Generall, *Alcidor* was his Leiftenant Generall and Feild-marshall of all the Cavalry, and the Cheifes and their triumphant return presenting themselves to the King, he

paid

pay'd him the second honors, which *Melicertus* was so far from looking upon with an envious eye that he spake of him as if he deserved the first. What wellcome his *Florinda* gave him is left to them to judge who know how high the pleasure rises when after a dangerous and afflicting absence the wife receives safe into her arms the husband whom she holds as dear, to her as her life.

About this time a tutor was to be provided for *Melinta*, a *Minor* who was neice to *Alcidor*, sole heiress of *Orgeries* and owner of a beauty and *Gentileness*, which inchanted the World, and there appeared *Candidates* of the Charge severall of her kinred whom (as they pretended at least) not so much a consideration of her great fortunes as a love of her most amiable qualities made solicitors to get her into their hands. But *Alcidor* who loved her as his Child and whom she loved as her Father, who affectionately desired to have her with him and with whom she earnestly desired to be, who considered that his competitors were less neerely related to her, than he, and of no more exalted quality, prosecuted his desire with a courage and prudence answerable to the equity which he had on his side, and was by the consent of those who would have

ſupplanted him ſettled in the Governement of her, that which he with a moſt juſt, wiſe and tender care diſcharged, and in the diſcharge improved her uncommon qualifications to a full perfection; She was reckoned the Grace of the Virgins of that age, and ſhe is eſteemed the ornament of the Matrons of this: but *Melinta*'s virtues and worths are far greater, than to be ſhut up in a little room, an entire Book is neceſſary for their deſcription.

Peace and the ſage care of *Poliamis* having repleniſht his Coffers with vaſt heaps of Money, and the gallantry of his diſpoſition carrying him after the ſoſteneſſes of love to the roughneſſes of War he determined with himſelf to make the Barbarians feel the weight and ſharpneſs of his Sword. He armed ſo puiſſantly that all the great Maſters of the World took notice of it, but which of them all he aimed at, was a myſtery which they could by no means diſcover. *China* ſwarmed with Souldiers as banks with piſmires, the Canon was upon the roade, the Captains had their Rendevous and *Alcidor* had an imployment amongſt them the moſt glorious that he had ever had. But, oh dire event! the day before the King was to take the Field, as he was buſied about the Coro-

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nation of his Queen, he was in the midle of his capitall City mortally assassinated by one of his subjects. This most detestable blow put all *China* into out-cries, astonishment, desperation and Tears; but no body was deeplyet sttuck with it, than was *Alcidor*. He was hereby defeated of the Vice-roy-ship of *Foquiem* in which *Polianis* had some dayes before told him he would settle him; but this was little or nothing to him; that which affected him was, that his soveraign was in this hotried manner despoiled of life, who was one of the most August Princes that ever swazed Scepter, who gave the Crown of *China* abundantly more luttre, than he received from it, and who shonne upon him in particular with very benigne tayes of grace and set a high value upon his services. With the thought of this his soul was for some time rendered unable to discharge its functions.

Though furious stirres use to be the consequents of the unhappy fall of Monarcks, there happened no such thing upon that of *Polianis*, the Ministers of state by their industrious prudence preventing all mischeifes that might in probability have arrived. His eldest Sonne *Aristenus* was without delay or obstruction declared King and *Partenice* re-

gent during his minority, and some lustres of his reign past in tranquillity as they began; but there is no fair weather which is not attended upon with some foul, and so it proved here. *Polidamus* successor to *Atalantus*, who died soon after that the peace was settled between him and *Polianis*, sent propositions of marriage between himself and the Princess *Ariana* Sister to *Aristenus*, and between *Aristenus* and his Sister the Princess *Callirea*. About which watches all things being after ripe consultations concluded upon, and preparations made on both sides for the nuptialls, when one would have guess' that every body would have esteemed this double alliance very much conducing to the advantage of *China*, and when there was most reason to think of peace and rejoycing, there appeared some in armes to stop the current of the Kings prosperity; but notwithstanding these he went with *Partenice* to receive the wife that was destined him, causing withall an army to follow him by which they were quickly reduced. There was not long between, and there arose another storm of more dangerous consequence; The Princes, as well those of the blood as others, armed against *Aristenus*, and *Aristenus* against the Princes. The King making Gene-

nerall of his Army *Policaris* Uncle to *Florinda*, and her husband *Alcidor* Cleife Marſhall of the Camp, this latter having taken leave of his wife, who heartily wiſht ill to the authors of the Stirres that took her husband from her and carried him into dangers, and being gotten into the Feild, within two dayes journey of *Paquin* beat up the quatters of Prince *Porſirus* and took his beſt horſes and plate. In ſequele of this the two armies approaching one another, he was of the opinion not to let Prince *Clorimax* paſs the river *Caromoran* but to fight him, and in all probability he had that day done the King very ſignall ſervice, if his counſell had been followed, but *Policaris* was of another judgment and was to be obſerved. He notwithſtanding ſhirmiſht the enemy ſo that a great number of them were laid dead upon the place, while the others made their paſſage.

He after this had order given him to go and receive upon the Frontier of *Junia* a thouſand Fantaſſins and two thouſand Horſe that were raiſed in *Brama*, and to conduct them to the ſeige of *Molineu*; that which having very expeditiouſly performed he was with the other Cheiſes practiſing to force the Town when intelligence came to

the Camp that *Poligan* was extinguisht. It soon came also to Prince *Calistus* who defended the Town, and it no sooner came to him, but he sent word to the Commanders of the seige that having no other reason to depart from the King, neither he nor the other Princes and Confederates, but the insolencies of that Monster of pride and common enemy of Princes, now that he was removed, he would without any more delay return to him. The punishment indeed which was justly given to that ambitious so changed the posture of affaires that not only *Calistus* but also the Princes and Grandees that had taken up arms against the King, laid them down and resumed their obedience to him. Upon this return of peace the Ministers of State considering of dismissing the forces which they had called from foreign soile, some of the principall of them judged it adviseable to give the *Bramians* a grave in *China*; which *Alcidor* hearing as boldly as generously repirted to it that to cut in peices strangers that came to the assistance of the King was a most hatefull treachery and would be an eternell reproach both the King and Kingdome, and that for his part he was resolved to put himself in the head of them that as he had had the charge of bringing them

them into a ſtrange Countrey ſo he might have the glory of carrying them back (or of endeavouring it at the leaſt) to their own , without ſuffering as much as he was able any dammage to be done them either in bodies or goods. This he did, as he ſaid , and had for recompence the particular thankes and Eulogies of the Cheifs (from whom the baſeneſs ſuggeſted againſt them lay not hid) and the general , good word and will of the nation for ever after.

A few weeks paſſing *Partenice* under pretext of being ill dealt with betook herſelf to armes , and the authors of her doing ſo endeavoured by promiſes of extraordinary remunerations and by all other likely arts to draw *Alcidor* to her party , but he plainely anſwered that from the inſtant that he had left the league he had preſerved his lozalty intemerate to the great *Polianis* , and that there were no propoſitions ſo advantageous or any thing elſe ſo powerfull as to be able to corrupt it to his Son *Ariſtenus*. According to what he ſaid , the Queens army being in the Province of *Honao* and the King advancing to fight them though with one much weaker , he advanced with him their Feild-Marſchall , and ſet them in battalia , the King complaining to him that he had not a

Prince about him, your faithfull servants, Sir, said he, I have allwayes heart say many name themselves companions of Princes, when it comes to fighting, having taken the right wing and given order for fight, he put himself at the head of the Kings Company of men at armes and charged the adverse Cavalry with a violence which totally routed them, their infantery also at the very instant running the same fortune with them. Upon this success, the glory of which was given to *Alcidor*, the Queen reconciled herself with her Son who treated her with all the sweetness discreable.

Florinda thought now she should keep *Alcidor* many lustres with her, but they proved not many months. Those of the new Sect of Religion beginning enterprizes of hostility contrary to their duty in the Province of *Quancy*, and the King making an expedition thither to repress them; he, as he was bound attended him, and his attendance was not unserviceable to him, the places which they made their asyles being very much by his conduct and assistance reduced.

From *Quancy*, leaving there sufficient forces, the King past into *Honao*, and to bridle the revolted which here fortified them-

themſelves cauſed to be raiſed eight thouſand Foot and three thouſand Horſe. Of theſe he made *Alcidor* Cheiſe and commanded the Governors of the Townes of that flouriſhing province to furniſh him with armes, Canon and other neceſſaries of War and to obey him as their abſolute Commander, returning himſelf to *Paquin*: And with this ſtrength and power that ſingular man taking *Chianchio* for his ſtation ſo ſuppreſt and awed the enemies who held *Quichio* and other places, that they durſt attempt nothing or ſcarce look abroad.

He thus following the road of honor, his eldeſt Son *Silvanus* generouſly trod in his Steps and having ſhewn himſelf in eminent occaſions had the charge given him of the Colours of the Kings Company of men at armes, as had alſo *Belanis* that of the Captain of the King's Guards in the room of *Palamion* who as a partizan of the rebellion was declared guilty of high treaſon.

The King again after a while leaving *Paquin* with gravid deſignes of bringing back to their allegiance thoſe who had ſeparated themſelves from it and of re-eſtabliſhing the peace which their ſeparation had broken diſpatched orders to *Alcidor* to come to him to *Ancheon* with two thouſand Foot (ſending

ding *Arpasax* Field-Marshall to command the rest of his army in his absence) and he in observance of them imbarking his men upon the river of *Santao* renderd himself with them at the place assigned eight dayes after the King. As soon as he was come the King appointing him to attake one of the suburbs of the Town which had not yet been fallen upon, he lead on his men, overthrew the barricadoes, beat back the defenders, made himself Master of the place and there fixt his quarters. Having orders again to beat and sway the Campagne, and while he was executing them with his two elder Sons having notice that three hundred Horse of the Garrison of *Holegaon* were gone to the seaside to meet a Convoy that was coming to them, he was upon them at the point of day, put them to the rout and seized their equipage and what they came for. Returned to the seige he with the attakes that he made and other parts of *Martialisme* that he performed, so intimidated the cheife who had ingaged himself to defend the Town. (He was *Ariances* Brother to *Filisten*) that he thought himself happy in surrendring it upon composition. At the surrender he by the Kings command set the army in form of battell while the enemy came

came out of the Town, and a Garrison was placed in it, and after that conducted *Ariances* and his men to two parts of it to defend them from being ill used.

After *Anchieu* there capitulated and yeelded *Holepaou*, forced to it by want of the supplies which *Alcidor* had deprived them of, and after *Holepaou* severall other Towns to which the King led his forces.

About this time as *Alcidor* was coming all alone from a covent of Religious, whither he would have no body accompany him in regard he had busines of secrecy as well as importance with one of the Covent, there met him two Gentlemen of the Regiment of the Kings Guards, who accosted him with complaints of an injury which they had received and which they could not pocket up, and he very civilly asking them what was the name of him, who had offended him and what the offence, it is yourself, Sir, said one of them, letting him see that he knew him, who have abused us, at the delivering up of *Ancheou*, when we would contrary to your order have gone into the Town, strikeing us with the flat of your Sword. Would you then, replied *Alcidor*, have satisfaction for this? Though, added he, I might use my eminent charge in armes for my

my diſpenſation, I am nevertheleſs ready to give it you, only let the one off you draw of while I have to do with the other. With thoſe words taking to task the forwardeſt of them he in a minute had wounded him in the thigh and diſarmed him. After which paſſing the next way to the other, he found him ready in ſtead of fighting to aske pardon and he freely gave it him. The King afterwards coming to know the buſineſs and ordering the Souldiers to be puniſht; he generouſly procured both their pardons of him. But he withall incurred himſelf the cenſure of the other Field-Marſhalls who told him, that they would not follow his example in ſatisfying every one that took things ill from them: To which, you may do as you ſee good, replied he, but it is a humor which I by nature have, and which I know not how to leave off, never to refuſe the combate when it is demanded of me. Not that I acquit myſelf from being reproveable for it, or that I ſhall not endeavor to moderate it by the directions of reaſon. Acting ſo, ſaid *Arpaſax* to him, and not hazarding your life, which is of conſequence and ought to be taken care of, upon occaſions of frivolous moment, you will be ſo far from impairing your glory that you will increaſe it. If you muſt

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die by the Sword, it ought to be at the head of an army and in the ſervice of your King who values you more than all his Captains beſides. I ſhould conſent to what you ſay, returned *Alcidor* to him, was I owner of your fortitude and other worths; but ſince I well know to what degree I am to be conſidered, pardon me, if I tell you that I place your Elogy of me in the range of flattery. Truth deſerves not to be ſo ſtiled, ſaid *Arpaſax* again, and you would very much injure your judgment ſhould you not own the difference between the one and the other. But to make you ackhowledge for true that which I have ſaid concerning the account in which his Majeſty holds you, I need only put you in mind of the choice which he hath made of you, abſolutely and in quality of Generall to command his armyes, and of the many meritorious and inclitous actions which you have atcheived in War, as in your element. You handle me with too much quickneſs, replied *Alcidor* to him, and I ſhall chooſe rather not to deny what you ſay, than to conteſt with you any longer.

Inquenhu, while ſeverall of the Towns that were its companions in mutinying reverted themſelves into the Kings hands, ſtill dif-

displaying the ensignes of rebellion, *Alcidor* was sent thither by him to learn the state of the place and enemy. Returning and reporting what he had learnt, he was appointed by a counsell of War to go thither again the next day to observe the places at which they might assault it. As he was doing what he was appointed they of the Town sallied out upon him, but he received them in such a manner that a great part of them never re-entred but remained behind upon the wayes. Two dayes after they set upon the Town in three places, on the right hand the couragious *Belican* commanding, on the left the judicious *Briselin*, the middle the Gallant *Alcidor*, and they all bravely performed their parts, but *Alcidor* with so much advantage that he was the Cheife (if not the sole) cause that the Town was presently delivered up. Here *Aristenus* left him to order all as he saw good with eight Companies of the regiment of his forein Guards, and as many of that of his Chinoise, but with injunction to be with him within nine dayes at Quichio. Coming hither as he was injoined, he with Prince *Tirenas* with so much life attaked the Town that all within trembled with feare and lookt upon themselves as at the last gaspe.

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During this ſeige *Ermanſtain* going with all the Cavalry to ſuccor a caſtle of importance which *Filiſtin* and *Aigremont* had beſeiged, *Silvanus* who was then ſixteen Years old followed him with the Kings Company of men at armes whom he in his Fathers room commanded, and nine hundred of the Horſe, when at their arrivall they found the place taken, for the re-taking of it braving the whole army of the enemies, and having a conflict with them in which they took two of their Canons, he therein did things worthy of *Alcidor's* Son and which made the Generall in a particular manner admire him. He received in this occaſion a wound with a Piſtoll-ſhot, but the Generall taking care of him and making him to do ſo of himſelf, he was quickly well of it.

During the ſame ſiege of *Quichio*, *Alcidor* executing ſome orders and the enemy appearing, his ſecond Son *Dolompus* attempted together with others to force a barricade, and venturing ſo far that the beſeiged iſſued out upon him, after the fight had been for ſome time very obſtinately maintained on both ſides, excellently mounted as he was, he in the veiw of more than five hundred Volunteers with a Piſtoll-ſhot killed one of the Officers that commanded at the *Barrica-*

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de; which he forced and returned victorious to his Father.

Aristenus after a while upon some weighty considerations drawing off his forces from *Quichio*, *Alcidor* was left by him with ten thousand men to command as Generall in the Countrey, and the Countrey being thick sown with enemies he had frequent encounters with them, not without making them feel the heavyness of his arm and dread it. But while he handled them roughly in that part where he was, they were industrious to revenge themselves else where, and their industry prospered so that they surprized a very considerable Town. Advertisement hereof being brought him, and that the castle of it held out still for the King, though it was in the Worst Season of Winter, he sent men to the assistance of the castle who by ladders and cords planted a-long the walls got into it in despight of all opposition, and at the same time went himself and approached the Town with Batteries of Canon. These approaches proceeding slowlier, than he desired, and those of the Town shewing themselves one day in the mazerner the walls, he with five hundred Gentlemen flew upon them, strawed the ground with their bodies as with rushes and bea-

beat them up to the very gate without loosing any more than two Gentlemen and a Trumpet that sounded the charge. From this he going on to other executions they who had taken the Town the fourth day after the seige was formed delivered it up to him upon artic'les that were less beneficiall to them, than they imagined.

Though *Alcidor* had so cooled the heat of the boldest of the revolted in the province, with which he was intrusted that there durst none of them shew their heads against him, contrary to the opinion with which they had been imprinted of making such progresses that they should give Laws to them, from whom it was their duty to receive them, and though he had long had an earnest mind to make a visit to his dear *Florinda*, and she conjured him to do it every time that she wrote to him, yet he durst never give himself and her that satisfaction for fear there should some disorder or mischeif fall out in his absence. He stuck close to his charge and with his paiuful cares and vigilancies rendered himself so formidable to the adverse party that they fled from the place where they knew he was as from an abode of the plague, so far were they from attaking him or forming parties to

ſurprize him. Nor were they the common Souldiers only that thus dreaded him, but the moſt renowned cheifes alſo, who ſhunned meeting him all that they were able, as having indeed experimented, that for *Alcidor* to conquer was no more, than his ordinary practice.

At the beginning of the ſpring *Ariſtenus*, who had paſt the winter at *Paquin*, parted from it, to go againſt *Ariances*, who, he was aſſured, contrary to the faith which he had ſworn at the rendring up of *Azcheou* never more to bear arms againſt him, had a body of men about him towards the Province of *Foquiam*. He found him in the Iland of *Tumbaca* where he had ſhut himſelf up with an opinion that it was inacceſſible; others alſo had the ſame thoughts of it: but the King by a kind of miracle diſcovered a place that was foordable, where no body in the memory of man had paſt, and paſſing it fell with ſo much life upon the enemies that they were almoſt in a moment cut and broken in pieces, and their Canon and Baggage taken, their Commander ſaving himſelf by flight. Adorned with the laurells of this victory he laid ſeige to *Chiquiano* and within a few dayes took it. Thence he marched afreſh towards *Quichio*; upon the way whither

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Alcidor meeting him with five hundred Gentlemen, and moſt of the officers of the army that was under him, he with extraordinary careſſes thankt him for the notable ſervices that he had done him in that Countrey, and in ſtead of going to *Quichio*, as it was beleived he would, went and ſet down before *Quamchieu*, giving *Alcidor* ſix thouſand Foot and all the ordinary Cavalry of pay, to fight *Filiſtin*, who it was ſaid, would endeavor to ſuccor the Town. But not long after the ſeige was laid, Prince *Meander* commanding the Army at Land and Prince *Dorilas* that at ſea, fell out the navall battell of *Liampo*, in which ſo ſuperbe a victory was obtained over the forces of the rebells that they were throughout the Kingdome conſtrained to ſue to the King for his grace; that which he according to the uſuall ſweetneſs of his diſpoſition granted them.

A univerſall calm recovered, *Ariſtenus* viſited his Provinces of *Cantan* and *Foquiam*, but not without taking *Alcidor* along with him, as he did alſo in the other little journeys, which he made for the good of his affairs.

At their return to *Paquin Florinda* being ready there to receive her *Alcidor* they after their long ſeparation, it will eaſily be believ-

ved, met with an unspeakable joy. Having staid a month or two at Court, leaving *Silvanus* there, they retired into the Countrey, having spent half a Year in the Countrey they re-past to the Court. In both places they led a most happy life, happy in regard of the innocent amenities with which the Countrey served them, and of the braver delights, with which the Court entertained them, happy, in regard that in the Countrey, they were by the Nobility and Gentry most kindly and civilly respected, by the commonalty little less than superstitiously worshipt, and that at the Court *Aristenus* and *Callirea* smiled upon them and made much of them as the principal ornaments of their royall state, happy, in regard that their Children were by all esteemed as rare examples, their eldest Sons *Silvanus* and *Dolompus* (the latter of which his Father had sent to *Mongul*) of most genuine courage and address, their youngest Son *Lidiam* of most pregnant hopes, their two Daughters *Delfina* and *Serapis* of most charming beauty, wit and virtue! But cheifly happy in regard of the reciprocation of entire love between themselves, the exact consort of their humors and wills, and the liberty which they had of a mutual fruition, that

that which was agreeable to the one being so to the other, and though they had been married many Years, as pathetick dearnesses continually passing between them, as if they had not been joyned together a month.

Together with *Alcidor* and *Florinda* (though scarce by the same measure with them) the Court also was happy, it was wholly a theatre of gallantries: War and the things that affright and molest were scarce so much as mentioned, all the discourse was of love, of the chase, of dances, of feasts, of all the more elegant recreations of humane life. There indeed spread a felicity over all the Kingdome, Heaven blessing it with a serene tranquillity and an exuberancy of good things. But the tranquillity was at length disturbed, the workers of the past tempests raising new ones; *Liampo* forgetful of the mercy which the King had shewed it when at the next door to ruine renewed its old factions, and the Isle of *Varella* was powerfully and sharply assaulted by the *Japonoises*. Afterraind of this the King, who armed with speed, to prevent the mischeif with which he beleived the Isle of *Chapasi* threatened, commanded *Alcidor* to put himself into it, and it was in an in-

ſtant that he had ſet foot on ground there with a great number of Gentlemen, who reckoned it a fair glory to fight under his colours.

To help him make good his charge, there was quickly ſent to him by the diligence of the admirable Oreſtes eight thouſand Foot and fifteen hundred Horſe, and with theſe aids he ſo well diſpoſed the Iland to a defence, that the *Japonoiſes* coming three dayes after to view it, found it too well fortified and managed, to be aſſaulted. After this the King ſeeing that the deſigne of *Callimorus* was wholly ſet to force the Ile of *Varella*, cauſed a good part of *Alcidors* forces to be joyned with others and make a deſcent thither, and the ſucceſs was that they compelled the *Japonoiſes* with great loſs to retire to their ſhips.

Callimorus being gone (*Ariances* who came with him fled alſo back with him to take refuge at *Meaco*) *Alcidor* who had not as yet ſtirred from *Chapaſi* was orderd by the King to go Feild-marſhall to the ſeige of *Liampo*. He was again upon intelligence that *Roſilus* had forces in the Feild which he intended to put into *Liampo*, or elſe to divert the ſiege with them, orderd by him with eight hundred Horſe to go ſeek him out and fight him

him; and taking with him *Silvanus* and *Dolompus* (the latter of which, the newes of the arming had brought from *Mongul*, where he had been dangerously wounded at the siege of *Teudae*,) he made his course, but could no where meet with them that he looked for.

Returned to the Kings quarters he had past but few dayes there before he received the newes of the sickness, and within a few houres after of the death of *Florinda*, newes which filled his great heart as full of greif as it could possible hold and not break, and which put his two Sonnes all in sadness. He had Condolers of his unhappiness the King and all of his acquaintance, and, when seeing the change of his habit they had learnt the cause of it, the whole army, the King withal together with others his freinds reading lectures to him of patience and comfort. He had indeed for arguments of quieting himself, that she was fallen into a sleep for which it was below a soul of true courage to torment it self, and from which all his Stock of Tears and sighes could not awaken her, that the Queen and Court had taken all the care and pains about her, not only, which humanity, but which also a zealous tenderness could suggest, and that he

had neither himself nor any other to complain of for his not seeing her in her sickness, the first moment that she fell ill a Currier being dispatched to him with notice of it, and she dying within six hours after, of which also he had as quick a messenger. But after all he had an earnest mind to throw aside his charge and arms and go weep over her: that which stopt him from doing it was a just consideration that his sovereign had present need of his service and demanded it, and that therefore to leave him would be to incurre an opprobry from which he should never be able to clear himself. Let us wait therefore, said he to himself, to go pay our last duties to that part of our dear *Florinda* that remaines, till this rebellious City, which is at the even of its being subdued, be fully so. It is not now the first time that we have received an infelicity of this kind, we have too well learnt the sad usage of resenting a wife's death to forget it, and shall we make less resistance against the oppressions of affliction now, than heretofore when our spirit had more of impurity, than now by the advantage of age it hath? The exercise of Tears is to be left to women, we have reason to shew ourselves more constant. And besides into

into what region is *Florinda* gone that we ſhould do nothing but lament for her? Is ſhe in an abode that is inacceſſible to us? Is ſhe not there, where all faithfull ſouls have a place reſerved for them, and where it is not long before we ſhall ſee her again? Let us forbear then to ſigh over her ſtate of bliſs, and reſume the temper which we had before the loſs of her, that ſo we may the better imploy ourſelves as our duty and neceſſity require in things importing to the ſpeedy reduction of the enemy. This reſolution tooke and followed *Alcidor*, and by his advice and example his Sonnes alſo, very much to the ſatisfaction of the King in regard both of the benefit which thereby they would receive themſelves, and of that alſo which would accrew from it to his own affairs.

The *Japonoiſes* having a good mind to ſuccour *Liampo*, but in regard of the invincible obſtacles that ſtood in their way contenting themſelves to appear upon the ſea and retire, the beſeiged though they had thereby their hopes fruſtrated continued obſtinately enough to defend themſelves; but at length great numbers of them being deſtroyed by the arms of the beſiegers, and greater by ſickneſs and famine, ſo that the Town made haſt

haſt to be deſert of inhabitants, they were neceſſitated to beg the Kings mercy, and what they neceſſarily begged, he freely indulged. Having maſtered this City, which three Kings his predeceſſours could not do, and re-eſtabliſht there the old Religion of *China*, he returned in triumph to *Paquin*; and thither *Alcidor* waited upon him, and then applied himſelf to perform the ſupreme honours to *Florinda*. When he came to ſee her body in the Coffin, he was wholly poſſeſt with greif, and his ſentiments were more equitable, than to be blamed: but his reaſon after a while making good its empire and tempering his paſſion, his Cheif care was taken up about her funerals, and he laid her in the grave with a State in which Mourning was renderd full of Majeſty.

While the King continued at *Paquin Alcidor* was always about him, and new occaſions calling him abroad, he and his Sons attended him. They were of his Cheife aſſiſtants when he forced his way through the barricades and other obſtacles that ſhut it up, and diſſipated thoſe that oppoſed it, releived *Baiador* that was ſtraightly beſeiged upon the Prince *Nimeſis*, and conſtrained *Alcippus* who had cauſed this trouble to ſue to him for peace.

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Affairs being quieted on that ſide, *Ariſteus* left *Clomeulon* there with ſufficient forces to maintain the quiet, and paſt into the Province of *Quiechen* in queſt of *Filiſtin* who with great numbers of men ravaged the Countrey; but though this Prince was the grand Cheife of the diſobedient party, and had the boldneſs to counter-act the Kings authority, he durſt no where appear before him. In this expedition *Tocichu* was begirt by the King, taken by aſſault and put all in blood. At this ſeige *Dolompus* was wounded with a Muſquet-ſhot in the head together with other little hurts, while his elder Brother had better fortune, though he continually engaged himſelf in moſt hazardous ſervices.

Taking warning by *Tocichu*, *Hilani* opened its gates to the King: *Hilani* leading the way ſeveral other Townes returned to their allegiance, *Filiſtin* giving them the ſalutary counſel to do ſo, who himſelf alſo recounted his diſloialty and obtained pardon of the King both for himſelf, and all the party of which he had been head and protector. Things being brought to this iſſue, the King returned to *Paquin*, leaving the great Oreſtes and *Alcidor* to receive the Townes to the obedience that they owed him and to cauſe their fortifications to be razed: and they were

were not long before they were again with him with an account of their negotiation which perfectly satisfied him.

Envious of the Universal peace which *China* now enjoyed, and resolved as it seems to shew himself, what he was reputed to be, the most inconstant Prince in the World *Alcippus* performed nothing of what he had promised *Aristenus* when he made peace with him, but by fresh and those unsufferable provocations obliged him to recommence War. *Orestes* past the mountains with fourty thousand men, took *Chaquoam* in the sight of *Alcastus* and put that flitting prince in such a fright that he staied no longer before he repented of what he had done. *Aristenus* himself also in the sequele marched with a great army into *Camboia*; *Alcidor* who was Field-marshall of it led the Van when they entred the Countrey and finding Prince *Eusebes* retiring with his Army was earnest to have bid them battle: but whatsoever clear day he saw of utterly defeating them, and whatsoever assurance he gave the King of it, he could not get his consent that he might fall on, he would reserve, he said, his forces to make himself Master of all the places of strength in *Camboia*, and to put their Prince in his Shirt. But it could not well

well be that the two Armies ſhould meet without ſtriking a blow, *Alcidor* moved the Quarel, prefaced with ſome skirmiſhes, made a looſe, broke into the midſt of the enemies, ſtrawed the ground with five hundred of their bodies and retreated gloriouſly, the King approving the exploit though not agreeing to the attempt. At length the whole conduct of the Army in *Cambota* was left to him, and he beſeiged Townes and took them by the meaſure of quickly bringing under the whole State.

Daiador in the mean time the moſt conſiderable place of its Countrey was vigorouſly beſeiged by the *Indians* who reſolved to take it or dye, if they were not hindered by a greater ſtrength, than theirs, and in all appearance they had not long to ſtay to be poſſeſt of it, ſo low had they brought it. Thither therefore *Ariſtenus* with all ſpeed cauſed thirty thouſand men to advance under three of his moſt experienced Captains, and they with Sword in one hand and Piſtol in the other bravely ſet it at liberty. Never received *Alcaſtus* ſuch an affront, and he was the more ſenſible of it becauſe he received it in his native Countrey. To ſee indeed himſelf and his army proudly triumpht over by the *Chinoiſes* while they forced them diſ-

grace-

gracefully to dislodge from before the Town about which they lay encampt waiting only the hour in which according to the composition that was made, they were to enter; It was a displeasure which he was so far from being able to digest that he endured not to survive it, but within a few dayes after marched off the World. *Bajador* releived the *Indian* King, and the Potentates that sided with him were constraind to make a peace with *Aristenus* upon conditions advantageous enough to him to declare him Victour in the War. The Castles, Townes, places which upon these conditions he delivered back to *Alcippus* were all monuments of *Alcidors* virtue that had conquerd them. Indeed to combate the enemy in their own Countrey and vanquish them, to inviron Townes and take them, to assault Places and win them, by all the methods of valour to render formidable the arms of the just *Aristenus* were his ordinary exercises (both at other times and) while he had the care of the War against *Alcippus*.

But the labours of this extraordinary man must have an end; they are glorious enough for him, they have dresst his name with flowers of honour which will never wither, the grand Cheifes of the World discourse of

of him with elogies of praise which posterity will with publicke voice transmit to the end of time, and *Arisenus* regards him as one whose Sword hath strucke as many important blowes in his service as any's whosoever, and whose merit might plead title to as rich rewards. In answer to his merit he resolves to settle him in the Viceroy-ship which *Polianis* a few dayes before his death designed him: But as he is about to do it he is called to arms by the Province of *Orgones* for the Chastising of that *Felonious*. The leading of this War is committed to *Alcidor*; but when he should take the Field, he falls sick. It is at first a heavy surcharge of trouble to him besides that of his sickness that he is hindered from waiting upon his Master and gathering the rose which is at the end of the thorn. But when he findes by the course of his disease that he can in all likelyhood have none but a fatall issue of it, he looks upon those former thoughts as no longer seasonable, he wholly applies himself to think of his retreate, the honours of the World he with a holy elevation of mind contemnes, and hath his desires grow cold to every thing else, but to go and enjoy a purity of happiness with his *Dorame* and *Florinda*. In fine seeing his end at hand he with most

sage

Iage remonſtrances incites his Children to follow the way of virtue and glory, and then compoſes himſelf with a pious courage to undergo the aſſaults of death which he feels beginning upon him, and which within a quarter of an hour diſlodge his heroick ſoul.

The End of the fourth and laſt Book.

FINIS.

THE KEY.

Alcidor
Astasia
Carmelia
Felisbea
Feonice
Orastes, *Duke of Guise.*
Podavius, *Duke of Remours.*
Trasilas, *Charles the 9th. of France.*
Florimen, *Henry the 3d. of France.*
Polianis, *Henry the 4th. of France.*
Aristenus, *Lewis the 13th. of France.*
Agenora Margareth Daughter *to Henry the 2d.*
Partenice Mary *of* Medicis daughter *to Francis Duke of Florence.*
Atalantus, *Philip the 3d. of Spain.*
Polidamus, *Philip the 4th. of Spain.*
Ariana, *Isabella eldest Daughter to Henry the 4th.*
Dorilas, *Duke of Guise.*
Dorame, *widow of the Count of Aventiers.*
Florinda, *Widow of the Count du Pay de Fon.*
Meander, *Count of Soisons.*
Polimbus, *Cardinal of Bourbon.*

Pe-

Arrantus, *Duke of Alenzon.*
Lucimon, *Duke of Medicis.*
Ostravius, *Duke of Parma.*

Lisantus, *Admiral de Villers.*
Periander, *Baron de la Roche des Aubiers.*
Clorimax, *Prince of Conde.*

Calistus, *Duke of Maienne.*
Palamion, *Baron de la Force.*
Belanis, *Count de Hallier.*
Arpasax, *Marquess de Vignoles.*
Belican, *Baron de Terme.*
Briselin, *Count Zamet.*
Tirenus, *Duke de Cheureuse.*
Filistin, *Duke de Rohan.*
Alcippus, *Duke de Savoy.*
Eusebes, *Prince Thomas.*
Orgones, *Duke de Loraine.*
Silarmin, *Arkduke Albert.*
Orestes, *Cardinal Richlein.*
Callimorus.

The

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